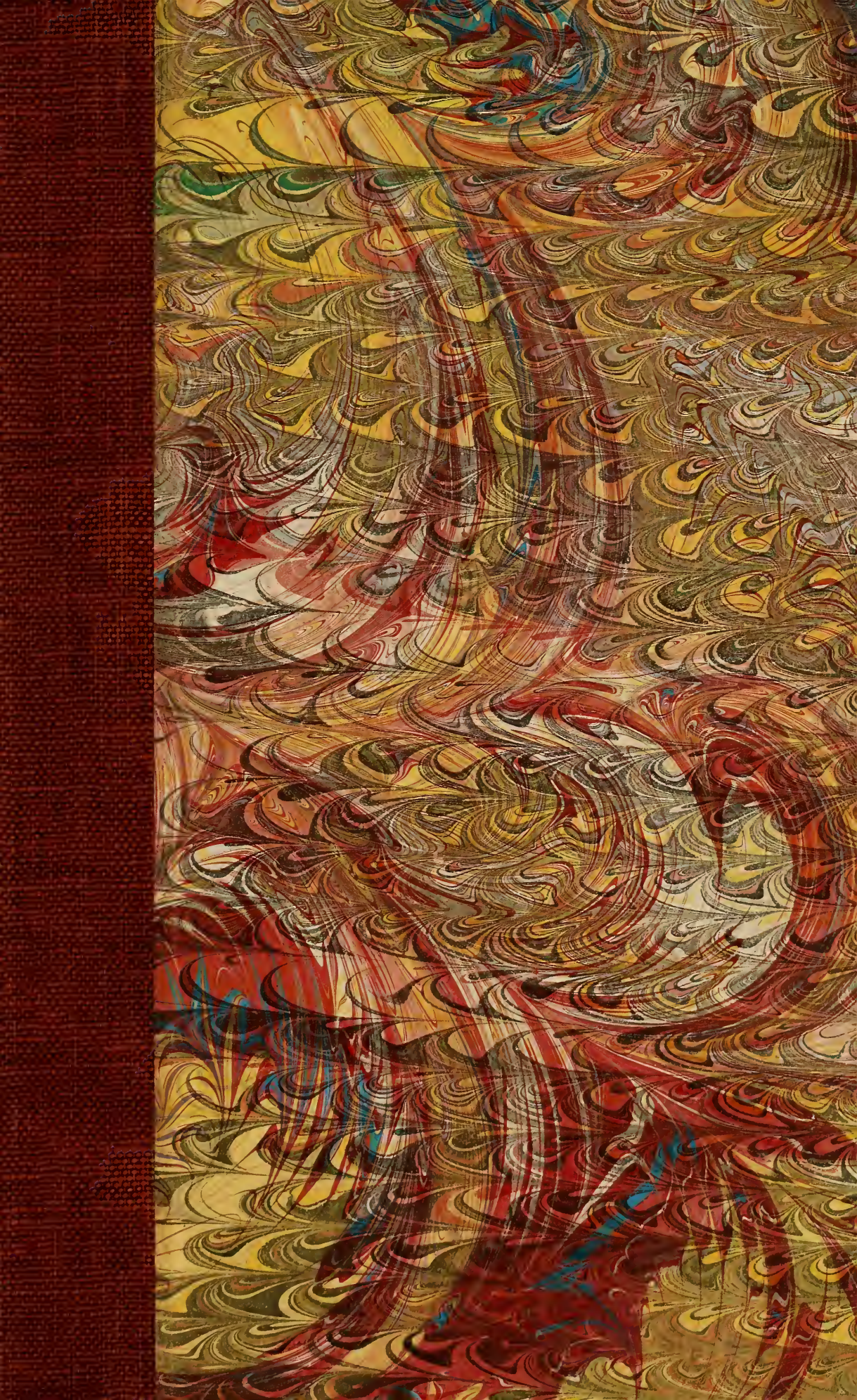




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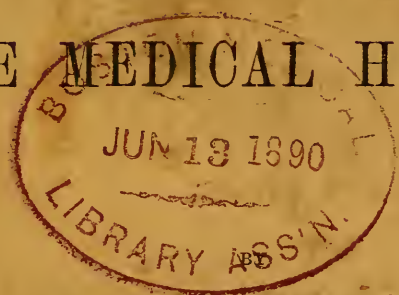
OR THE

ORTHODOX PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

UNVEILED,

VERSUS

THE MEDICAL HERESY!



DR. TH. BERIGNY,

HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN, 119, COLLINS ST. EAST, MELBOURNE.

Melbourne :

W. FAIRFAX & CO., PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
78, COLLINS STREET EAST.

1858.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

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PREFACE.

WE think it necessary to lay before the public the two following letters, which appeared in the *Melbourne Morning Herald* of the 4th and 5th March, 1858, as having accidentally originated the publication of the remarks which follow :—

THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

To the Editor of the Herald.

DEAR SIR,—Owing to the great importance of the subject, I trust you will not consider this too lengthy for insertion. In reading the particulars of an inquest held upon the body of a child thirteen months old, which appeared in the *Argus* of the 22nd of last month, and who died of congestion of the brain, one is much struck with the peculiar treatment of infants ; and when facts are brought statistically forward, showing the alarming mortality amongst young children, it should teach us to think whether medical science, like every other science, is not capable of being improved, or whether the debilitating practice of the old school should go on unceasingly ; whether in a new colony, where the temperature is such as to encourage and favor all inflammatory affections, there should be no means of subduing but “by blood-letting.” Well may the uninitiated sometimes feel astonished at the practical science, which at the same time will give and take away. How can we reconcile with common sense a system of medicine which permits the leeching, cupping, or blistering of an infant, with the administering of brandy and water ? Surely we cannot properly call this science. The first of these methods of treatment is in daily use all over the world, and in cases of croup I have witnessed the most painful and disgusting torture—I call it torture, because it is not necessary to draw blisters upon the throat of an infant ; it is not necessary under such circumstances to cut with cupping knives, or frighten them with leeches, to excoriate with liniment, or aggravate them by an emetic. I maintain that neither of these are necessary, because I have seen hundreds of acute cases of inflammation treated differently, and with far greater success. My experience has been amongst children, where the imagination could have no influence, and with whom the profession are mostly at fault. It is almost an acknowledged fact that amongst the young a nurse is better than a doctor—and why ? The medical profession

says impossible! but reason tells us differently, and argues alone from facts. Is it not monstrous that more than one half of the deaths for the colony of Victoria for the year ending the 30th June, 1857, should be children under five years of age? The total number of deaths was 6521; of these 3267 were under five years of age, 2313 of whom died within twelve months of their birth.

What a fearful Government report! Will any reasonable person believe that of necessity children must die in this wholesale manner, and that nothing could be done to save them; no science brought to bear successfully upon the saving of infant life? I think not.

I am not a professional man, neither have I any personal interest in forwarding a particular system of medicine, further than its becoming an universal benefit; but I have seen so many diseases cured under homœopathic treatment, and such immediate relief given to children suffering acutely, that I am led strongly to urge its adoption.

Homœopathy has led to the development and use of medicines previously unknown. The tincture of arnica montana is extensively used in our London hospitals. Fourteen years ago homœopathy was a science in London, struggling for existence under the fiercest opposition; it was abused, ridiculed, and those who practised it persecuted. It triumphantly passed through a severe ordeal, and is now fully established. Thousands live this day to bless the result, and I amongst the many seek to extend the wonderful results of a system of medicine which, from its simplicity is sometimes called into question, as we all know was the efficacy of vaccination, which is purely homœopathic. With every apology,

I remain, dear Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,
 GEORGE BROWN.

Bourke-street, west, Tuesday morning.

THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE.

"Audi alteram partem."

To the Editor of the Herald.

SIR,—My attention was attracted this morning by the above portentous heading to a letter in your columns. Turning to it with eager curiosity, its perusal afforded me—

1st. An alleged high mortality amongst children.

2nd. A tirade against the "Practice of Physic," especially in croup; and,

3rd. A recommendation of homœopathy as a panacea for infantile suffering.

I am not in a position to quarrel with the first of these premises, and will, therefore take your correspondent's *ipse dixit* on that head. With the second I may be more discursive, and

this on account of my being able to endorse Mr. Brown's statements as to the frequency of the diseases of infancy and childhood—their fatality, and also their many peculiarities—circumstances which do not pertain to this colony alone. In medical practice children form, at least, one-third of the patients entrusted to our care; and so serious are the diseases to which they are liable, that one child in five dies within the first year after birth, and one in three before the completion of the fifth year.

Children differ from adults, inasmuch as, in the former, the body is daily growing in size, increasing in strength, and the organs are successively developing new functions; whilst in the latter its structure is complete, and the functions of the respective organs remain the same. In the child, too, during the periods of the first and second dentition, all dangers are considerably increased from the great changes which are taking place in the organism. In treating the diseases of children, we have to deal not only with the interruption to the present function of an organ, but also to calculate its future effects on the economy; nor is it always easy to determine which organ is originally affected, as local disease soon extends to the whole system. Also our means of investigating disease in the adult fail us with respect to the child. We have to study a new semeiology, learn a new pathology, and acquire a new system of therapeutics. To many practitioners the diseases of children are a sealed book, because, having no real love for children, they cannot acquire the tact necessary for examining into their ailments. The ordinary modes of interrogation fail; we have a language not of words, but of signs to interpret, and this can only be effected by the most untiring patience, the most unruffled temper. Children and dogs are the finest physiognomists in the world, and little children soon make up their minds as to who loves them, and express themselves accordingly by words or signs, or both.

It is necessary to receive with great caution Mr. Brown's observations with respect to that jumble of medical treatment,—blood-letting, blisters, and brandy-and-water. Their alliteration is euphonius, and their due sequence might be beneficial. Croup is the disease specially adverted to; and whilst I illustrate the utility of the three remedial measures above-named, it is also my duty to warn your readers against adopting the *dolce far niente* of homœopathy, and relying upon it to arrest the progress of such dangerous malady. The nature of croup has been investigated by many able physicians, and we are indebted for a number of most valuable works on this disease to the first Napoleon, who offered a prize for the best essay on the subject, on the death of his nephew, the Crown Prince of Holland, who died from this disorder, 1805-6. Croup is a disease of early life. In fact, it is extremely rare after five years of age. It is

influenced by peculiarities of climate and locality more than any other disease of the respiratory organs; is almost entirely confined to northern climates; and has periods of epidemic prevalence. It consists in inflammation, generally, of a highly acute character of the larynx (voice-box), or the brachea (wind-pipe), or both. It terminates, in most cases, in the exudation of a false membrane, more or less abundantly, on the affected surface. It is attended by formidable symptoms, and rapidly tends to a fatal issue. There is no disease that requires more prompt and energetic employment of appropriate remedies. The disease may be divided into three stages, and to arrest it in the first, our main reliance must be placed on bleeding (and that largely), antimony in emetic doses, and calomel. If we have to combat the disease in the second stage, a totally different plan of treatment must be adopted; hot mustard baths, emetics of sulphate of copper, blisters, and the child must be brought under the influence of mercury. Still unable to arrest the disease, we must have recourse to stimulant expectorants, ammonia, beef tea, wine, and even brandy-and-water. So bleeding, blisters, and brandy-and-water may each in turn be indispensable.

Lastly, homœopathy is to furnish a safe and pleasant means of treating disease. Homœopathy is one of those popular delusions against which reason is of little avail; and for years past the pseudo-physicians who practise it, have held up to the lay public all the best acknowledged principles of our medical philosophy and practice,—principles that have stood the test of thousands of years,—as delusions and errors.

Homœopathy, Mr. Brown asserts, is extending. I could supply him with data to the contrary; but I am content to grant him its extension. Heresies extend; but is that any evidence of their value. Hahnemann and Joe Smith, Homœopathy and Mormonism—they have many points in common. In the one, as in the other, the dogmas and doctrines are a tissue of the strangest contradictions and wildest absurdities. The one, belonging to medical, can only be judged of by physicians; the other, pertaining to theology, by clerical men. A grown-up man seriously asserts that he can cure this or that disease by a billionth or decillionth of this or that common, and probably even inert, drug—sulphur, chamomile, belladonna, &c. Is there any poison, ever so powerful, which in such quantity could hurt a fly? And yet they allege this infinitesimal division invests them with such “tremendous power.” The mode of preparing homœopathic medicines is to dip globules of sugar of milk into solutions of supposed billionths, quadrillionths, quintillionths, &c., &c., of some drug, and, thus medicated, they bear its name.

Professor Simpson has humorously put the question, “What is a billionth of a grain?” He has, with equal humor, answered it. “That if a single grain of sulphur were divided, as the

homœopathists use it, and other drugs, into billionths, and our common parent (Adam) when called into existence some 6,000 years ago, had then begun swallowing a billionth every second, and if he had been permitted to live up to the present time, doing nothing but swallowing night and day sixty billionths every minute, he would have as yet completed only a small part of his task. It would require him to work and swallow at the same rate for 24,000 years yet to come, in order to finish one grain of a drug, which has little or no effect on his present descendants in doses of many grains. Yet the homœopathists believe that a few of the sulphur billionths which Adam would have swallowed during these 30,000 years would cure, forsooth, an attack of jaundice."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

31, Russell-street, south.

E. BOWMAN, M.D.

As soon as the above Letter appeared in the *Herald*, we addressed to the Editor a communication as a refutation of the charges uttered against homœopathy. More than a week after we were informed that our communication had not obtained a place in the open column, as about forty correspondences of the same nature had been received, and it was impossible to satisfy every one. The disappointment of many friends of Homœopathy has induced us to issue the following pages, which we publish by their special request.

Our imperfect knowledge of the English language, and the necessity of vindicating our principles, grossly calumniated, are the apologies we offer for the imperfections in the performance of the task devolving upon us.

THE

ORTHODOX PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

“There is more difficulty in overcoming old errors than in establishing new truths.”—SIR HUMPHRY DAVY.

As reason and logic afford powerful means of contradicting slanders, we cannot allow Dr. Bowman's letter to pass unnoticed; for, no doubt, it has made some impression upon the community, always faithful to tradition in applauding at the persecution of the friends of humanity. Mankind has not changed from the time of Socrates; and we owe to the progress of civilization that the word *humbug* has been substituted for a *decoction of hemlock*.

As a champion of the old school of medicine, and a true disciple of the decrepid errors in which he was professionally trained, Mr. Bowman first wisely and prudently adorns himself with the useful garments of medical knowledge, and, with the help of this darling prestige, he next unconsciously blows upon the rising generation the dreadful recommendation of a treatment in croup more destructive *sui generis* than the malady itself; and, as every error is a two-edged weapon—i.e., inflicting misery and evil on one side, and exercising its venomous attacks against improving reforms on the other—this eager promoter of mischievous transgressions of the organic laws, not contented with “largely” and barbarously extracting blood from a lymphatic constitution, and thoroughly but cruelly impregnating the absorbing tissue with mercury, ultimately opposes to the just claim of a medical reform, assertions of his own, and the condemnations already passed upon the system by others who are known to be by *esprit de parti* the most virulent opponents of homœopathy, as being a therapeutical reform disturbing their long established opinions.

However wrong and prejudiced Dr. Bowman may be, we grant him a spirit of moderation unknown to his patron *The Lancet*. The epithets of “quackish,” “half-cracked,” “brutal,” “renegade,” “dishonest,” “criminal,” “dupers,” “knaves,” “fools,” “madmen,” &c., are poured upon duly qualified practitioners, who have honestly and forcibly been converted to homœopathy, the number being about 2,000 on the European continent and 3,000 in America, out of which there are forty-two professors attached to universities and seventeen court physicians, most of whom

have been in full practice under the old system from twenty to thirty years previous to their conversion.

In Mr. Bowman's estimation, *first*, "*Homœopathy is one of those popular delusions against which reason is of little avail; and, secondly, like Mormonism, a tissue of the strongest contradictions and wildest absurdities.*" For the first part of these assertions, we challenge him to a public discussion; and, for the second, as we consider the assertion a patent falsehood, we defy him to point out a contradiction; and, as to being an absurdity, we confess that it ought to appear so to him *à priori*, and to every one else who does not understand the principles of this reform of therapeutics, or believe in the misrepresentation given. The "absurdities" of Homœopathy are a true reflection of the faculties of those who look upon the bright plate of science from a far distance; if they were to examine closely they would lose sight of their own image, and discover some interesting facts and most useful truths, which truths are of an increasing ratio in the estimation of practitioners advancing in its study and practice.

Thereupon the American philosopher, A. J. Davis, remarks with great propriety, that "The profoundness and interior tendencies of many of Hahnemann's revealments constitute the principal cause of their obscurity: and those physicians who have been educated from their youth to the period of graduation from college, in the sensuous mode of reasoning and argumentation so common to this era of the age, are not qualified to see in Homœopathy anything but ridiculous propositions and incomprehensible corollaries."

With his characteristic presumption, Mr. Bowman asserts that *he could give data to the contrary that Homœopathy is progressing.* We challenge him to do so, even if he invokes the calumnies of the *Lancet*. The following facts, on the contrary, boldly challenge his contradictions.

Several charters of corporation have been granted by different governments, both in Europe and America, as well as the establishment of about forty homœopathic hospitals sanctioned by government, in those countries. In Paris, the establishment of a chair of Homœopathy has lately been ordered at the Faculty of Medicine, by the Emperor Napoleon III.; several wards of hospitals are granted to homœopathic physicians and surgeons; and the comparative success obtained is a subject of desperate aversion on the part of the orthodox practitioners. Although the bitterest hostility against homœopathy is to be found in England, yet there are upwards of 200 qualified practitioners openly practising homœopathy. One of the late converted was Dr. Horner, ex-president and honorary perpetual vice-president of the British Medical Association, who renounced the old practice of medicine after twenty-seven years of extensive practice in Hull, &c.

In London a sum of £10,000 has been subscribed for the

erection of a homœopathic hospital, and an equal sum is already collected for the establishment of a homœopathic college of medicine. The supporters of the system invariably belong to the most liberal and intelligent class of the community, more than one half of all the aristocracy of England and the continent are the friends of homœopathy, and not the "weak-minded" and "silly" people, as its detractors try to infer, with more malice than ignorance. Without referring to the names of emperors, kings, and queens, who have all homœopathic medical advisers, and who do not acknowledge it openly in order to spare the feelings of the medical and scientific bodies known to persecute homœopathy most bitterly, we shall give a few names of the English friends of this great cause, truly adequate to that of Christianity in a natural point of view:—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, the Right Hon. the Earl of Wilton, the Lord Archbishop of Dublin, the Earl of Essex, Lord Robert Grosvenor, many members of the houses of lords and commons, generals, admirals, and a great number of the clergy. Such are the patrons of homœopathy.

The success of homœopathy in cholera and yellow fever is such that many honest and most eminent adherents of the old school have acknowledged its superiority.* In some states of North and South America, where the deplorable establishment of slavery continues, several life insurance companies are known to have realised great profit by a compulsory condition to have the insured slaves treated homœopathically in case of ailments, although their charges were inferior to those of the other life insurance companies. In Europe, there are several Insurance companies who so far have determined the relative value of the two modes of treatment, that they reduce the rate of premium, in the case of those persons who are subjected to homœopathic treatment only, during illness.

Thousands of most positive cures speak in favor of this medical reform, whilst its misrepresentation by the interested profession, dangerously disturbed by the attempt of reform, successfully prejudice a credulous community whose belief is unfortunately

* Extract of an editorial article from the *Herald*, South American (Lima) paper, February, 1854:—

"*Notice to those who are unwilling to die with Yellow Fever.*—Whilst the ravages of yellow fever hold us in that terror which naturally spreads the most violent death, the comforting Providence, in her immutable decrees, has sent us the celebrated practitioner, Dr. Th. Berigny. This learned French gentleman lately arrived from the United States, faithful observer of the nature of the epidemic which made such fearful ravages in New Orleans last year, and now reaches this country, is the one we wish to make known to the public. We ocularly witness the infallibility of his mode of treatment, hitherto unknown in this country: we who for the first time have been made acquainted with this medical gentleman, whose kind manners and charity will gain the sympathy of all those who will know him. We believe it to be our duty to publish this notice, not to favor his private views, but rather for the interest of the afflicted and needy, and confidently assert that his presence in the country has been a source of blessing to many Linnæan families."

bound to a supposed authority. Homœopathy either courts fair enquiry or appeals to statistical reports such as those which have been embodied in a return made to the medical council of the English board of health, which reports show a mortality of sixteen per cent. in all cases of simple cholera, thirty-three in cases of collapse treated in the London homœopathic hospital, whilst the mortality of the same disease treated allopathically (the regular treatment) gives a mortality of no less than thirty-seven per cent. in simple cases, and sixty per cent. in cases of collapse. A medical inspector, Dr. M'Laughlin, an opponent and confirmed enemy to Homœopathy, had been carefully watching the cases received in the wards of the London homœopathic hospital, and has since expressed his opinion of the superior results obtained in cases of the most malignant form of cholera, in the following terms:—
*"I went to the London Homœopathic Hospital prepossessed against the homœopathic system—as an enemy rather than a friend—and I must, therefore, have seen some cogent reason there, the first day I went, to come away so favorably disposed as to advise a friend to send a subscription to the charitable fund of the Institution; and I need not tell you that I have taken some pains to make myself acquainted with the rise, progress, and medical treatment of cholera, and that I claim for myself some right to be able to recognise the disease, and to know something of what the medical treatment ought to be; and that there may be, therefore, no misapprehension about the cases I saw in the homœopathic hospital, I will add that all I saw were true cases of cholera, in the various stages of the disease; and that I saw several cases which did well under the treatment, which I have no hesitation in saying would have sunk under any other. In conclusion, I must repeat what I have already told every one with whom I have conversed, that although an allopath by principle, education, and practice, yet was it the will of Providence to afflict me with cholera, and to be deprived of the power of prescribing for myself, I would rather be in the hands of a homœopathic than an allopathic adviser." **

With such a host of facts, Homœopathy, as being among the scientific topics of the age, is in the judgment of many looked upon as the greatest humbug of all the medical fallacies; and this opinion is backed by the condemnation of eminent practitioners, universities, and royal colleges of physicians. But, *"as the Creator of the Universe has endowed man with reason, and assigned him a noble and intelligent rank in the scale of intellectual and moral being, and as he has commanded him to use this faculty—so, he who cannot reason is a fool, he who will not reason is a bigot, but he who will reason is a MAN."* The friends of Homœopathy will reason about the validity of authorities in pronouncing against Homœopathy, without a due, calm, and methodical examination of its principles. The unpardonable offence of this medical reform

* For further particulars the reader is referred to the petition of the Homœopathic Association, addressed to the House of Parliament.

is to prefer administering small doses of medicines, instead of the large doses commonly used, the destructive tendency of which can be proved to constitute a great calamity to mankind.

The greatest obstacle to Homœopathy being in the public taking for granted the condemnation of the Faculty against it, it is therefore proposed to examine in a few words the value of their verdict. We humbly solicit the attention of those who consider their health as an affair of importance, and feel interested in the progress of medical science, for the noble perfection of the healing art. People have always fought the battle of truth as well as of abuses; and, as the history of the past teaches us that every improvement of a political, religious, or scientific character, has been vehemently opposed by an ignorant and bigotted majority, and that every opposition, however wrong and lamentable, has had men of talent, genius, and of high standing at their head, we become now enabled by analogy to form a correct estimate of the opposition of the ignorant masses misled by high "authorities."

The question of the infallibility of judgment of the medical authorities, scientific societies, royal colleges of physicians and surgeons, universities, &c., is to be answered by history. When the immortal Jenner discovered the prophylactic properties of vaccination against small pox, he was opposed by the same heinous proceedings which still characterise the scientific universities now at war against Homœopathy, hydropathy, and animal magnetism (the latter would be better called vital electricity). In their attempt to retard the progress of vaccine inoculation, it was reported by some members, in the scientific papers read before these learned *savans*, that several children after inoculation were heard to cough like cows, others had hairs growing upon the body, others were affected with diseases common to cattle, and other children had died with a prolongation of the vertebræ assuming the form of a tail. Dr. Squirel supplicated publicly his majesty George III. to suppress this "destructive vaccine inoculation throughout his dominions." "It ought," added a Professor Monro, of Edinburgh, "to be prohibited by act of parliament."

While these learned faculties of medicine were so ineffectually struggling against the progress of truth, they were publishing and recommending a pharmacopea of which we give an extract in regard only to mercury, which *was and is* still a remedy of great predilection in the English school of medicine. "It is," speaking of mercury, "almost a divine remedy; it easeth pain and giveth rest; it is one of the most noble medicines yet known in the world, and will do as much as any whatsoever; it will easily, safely, and speedily cure any old, malign, and deplorable disease; it purges gently, without vomiting, except the stomach be foul. It is a wonderful arcanum in dropsies and gout, and also in jaundice, all manner of defluxions, scurvy, leprosy, scab, itch, plagues, poisons, all fevers whether continual or intermitting, the

colic, dysentery, and all obstructions in any part of the body. It begins, continues, and perfects the cure alone, thoroughly and substantially rooting out all maladies and the seeds of every disease."

Ye credulous people, who believe in the authorities of learned men, see the result of your lamentable credulity! Very few of you are free from being affected with toothache, therefore to satisfy yourselves of your ignorance, or that of your parents who administered your physic, crush this useful instrument of mastication when out of your jaw bones, and you will find some mercury, as evidence of the destructive errors of the orthodox profession. But this is the smallest sample of the mischief of error: take an amputated limb, which the pathological disorganization of tissue compel the operator to sever from the trunk of some victim of physic, put it in a boiler, crush the bones, and wash out the whole contents;—you will find minerals, which the Creator has certainly not introduced by inadvertence in the wholesome food which abounds around him. Learn that rheumatism, gout, neuralgia, ophthalmia, paralysis, liver complaints, heart diseases, pulmonary consumption, and insanity, which all baffle the skill of every system of medicine, are now curable, since we possess the means to extract from the sufferer, mercury, lead, steel, and other metallic substances, which the old school of medicine has administered, and disguised under the form of "mild aperients," "family pills," "the gentle course of mercury," "the tonic," and "strengthening pills of steel," &c.; learn that you have to suffer in your old age from this barbarous presumption of your medical advisers to improve upon your constitution by transgressing the organic laws through which the Creator governs, maintains in health, and restores to functional equilibrium every organic body. No! the laws of causation are not capricious: Ignorance has drawn upon you the punishment that tortures your existence; and in attempting to escape it your folly complicates the mischief, until the discreet grave buries the whole in oblivion—discreet grave? No! it will still be a receptacle—of quick silver—when ages shall have converted the remains into earthy dust.

To Mr. Bowman's saying, that, "*the Pseudo Physicians who practise homœopathy have held up to the lay public all the best acknowledged principles of our medical philosophy and practice—principles which have stood the test of a thousand years—as delusions and errors,*"—we beg to answer that this proposition is inexact. Homœopathy is a medical doctrine, *sui generis*, which is independent of other systems, and it is not incumbent upon it to prove that others are wrong; but that the principles which it develops, although they appear new and strange to all, are nevertheless true and sound, and constitute the most rational system of medicine. To the incident proposition of Mr. Bowman, that of "*acknowledged principles of medical philosophy which have*

stood the test of thousands of years, we will shew to the satisfaction of everyone that he is just fresh out from the school, and that these alleged principles of medicine are a chaos of discrepancies and confusion, from which many practitioners are gradually dissenting, while their personal experience dictates a more successful method of treatment than the one they used to follow in their early practice.

The following opinions are from eminent practitioners of the old school, and not one of them can be said to be partial to homœopathy:—they are from Paris, Bichat, Magendie, Girtanner, Boerhave, Kieser, Sir G. Blanc, Rush, Cowan, *The Lancet*, Searle, Billing, McLeod, Andral, Ferguson, Simpson, M. Hall, James Johnson, A. Combe, Louis, Forbes, Brera, Cheyne, Sir Ch. Aldis, Alley, Beech, Raspail, and other scientific celebrities.

I.

“In tracing the history of the MATERIA MEDICA to its earliest periods, we shall find that its progress has been very slow and unequal, very unlike the steady and successive improvements which have attended other branches of natural knowledge; we shall perceive even that its advancement has been continually arrested and often entirely subverted by the caprice, prejudices, superstition, and knavery of mankind: unlike, too, the other branches of science, it is incapable of successful generalisation.”—*Paris*.

II.

“There is not in the MATERIA MEDICA, that is, in the history of remedies, any general system; but this science has been by turns influenced by those who have ruled in medicine, the incoherent assemblage of opinions, themselves incoherent. It is, perhaps, of all the sciences the best representation of the caprices of the human mind. What do I say? *It is not a science for the methodic mind*; it is a shapeless assemblage of inexact ideas, of observations often puerile, of deceitful means, of formulas as absurdly conceived as they are fastidiously collected. It is said, the practice of medicine is disheartening. I say more—it is not in any respect that of reasoning men.”—*Bichat*.

III.

“The apparatus medicaminum is nothing else than a careful collection of all the *fallacies* that physicians have ever fallen into. Some just opinions, founded on experience, are mingled with them; but who will waste his time in searching out the little grains of gold from this vast dunghill, which physicians have been heaping up for two thousand years?”—*Girtanner*.

IV.

“If we compare the good, which a half-dozen true sons of Esculapius have accomplished since the origin of their art, with the evil the innumerable multitude of doctors of this trade have

done, we shall not hesitate to conclude, that it would have been far better if there had never been physicians in the world."—*Boerhaave*.

V.

"The history of medicine, especially, teaches this, for it shows that every separate, and, thence, *one-sided* theory of medicine, has required a number of *victims* greater than the most destructive plagues or the longest war."—*Kieser*.

VI.

"When it is further considered what a mass of *credulity* and *error* has actually accumulated in medicine, when we cast our eyes upon our shelves loaded with volumes, few of them containing any genuine profitable knowledge, the greater part of them composed chiefly of statements either *nugatory*, *erroneous*, *inapplicable*, or *mischievous*, in which the dear-bought grain is to be sought in the bushels of chaff, may it not be questioned whether such researches have not tended more to retard and corrupt, than to advance and improve practical medicine?"—*Sir G. Blane*.

VII.

"It seems to be one of the rules of faith in our art, that every truth must be helped into belief by some *persuasive fiction* of the schools. And I here owe it to the general reader to confess, that as far as I know, the medical profession can *scarcely produce a single volume* in its *practical* department, from the works of Hippocrates down to the last-made text book, which by the requisitions of an exact philosophy, will not be found to *contain nearly as much fiction as truth*. Upon these points, and bearing in mind that we have now in medicine the recorded practice of more than two thousand years, let the reader refer to the proceedings of the medical profession, during the prevalence of the so-called 'Asiatic Cholera,' and he will find their history every where exhibiting an extraordinary picture of *prefatory panic*, *vulgar wonder*, *doubt*, *ignorance*, *obtrusion*, *variety*, *plans for profit and popularity*, *fatal blunders*, *distracting contradictions*, and *egregious empiricisms*."—*Rush*.

VIII.

"Medicine for many very evident reasons, has been and continues to be, the victim of *varied* and *contradictory* hypotheses: the minds of all who have attempted to trace its deviatory course, have wearied in the vague conflict of opinions, and have either sheltered themselves under the *authority* of a *name*, or satisfied their doubts by the *creation* of a *principle* quite as *hypothetical* and *uncertain* as any by which they were previously bewildered."—*Cowan*.

IX.

"The want of certainty in the old system of medicine is exhibited in the fact, *that the old system of medicine has no fixed rules in the use of remedies*.

“We want to know of what our remedies *consist*, and what *changes* they pass through in their *uses*; the part they take as compounds, or what functions their components severally perform in the innumerable chemical processes, the decompositions and recompositions of organic substances incessantly going on within a living organism. *All this is almost if not altogether unknown.* It is, perhaps, not saying too much to aver, that there is not a single agent employed in medicine, about which there is not at present some point to be decided by a more elaborate chemistry. Scarcely is there one remedy known to be such, *save empirically*, the effects of which upon the chemical constitution of the fluids, of the solids, of the secretories, *are not almost if not altogether unknown.*”—*Lancet*.

X.

“Their mysterious agency has not yet become in the slightest degree developed; not only does the entire operation of a medicine remain unknown, but that of each of its elements remains a problem yet to be solved. It is a disputed point whether medicines directly influence the secretory functions through the medium of the nervous system, or whether their properties are conveyed by the blood to the organ to be acted upon; it is not known whether the circulation in the organ be increased, diminished, or unaltered, or whether the agency of medicine be chemical, physical, or otherwise.”—*Searle*.

XI.

“Upon commencing the study of medicine and surgery, after having become acquainted with the more precise physical sciences in the university, I was appalled to find it a complete chaos. Our family physician, really a man of great talent, and one of our professors, disheartened me by his answers. I inquired ‘what is fever?’ Answer, of course, Cullen’s definition. ‘But what produces it?’ Sometimes one thing, sometimes another; excessive cold or heat, or the effluvia from a person who has fever. ‘But what is the cause of the phenomena in the body?’ Spasmodic contraction of the extreme vessels.’ I could understand that cold might contract the extreme vessels; but I had been taught by the professor of chemistry that caloric expanded everything. And, again, I did not see how effluvia produced spasm, nor how the spasm, if it were produced, could make the skin extremely hot as well as cold. I was advised to read Cullen, and did so, but without finding the information I sought. Again, I asked, ‘when you give a dose of rhubarb or castor oil to stop a diarrhœa of several days’ standing, how does it effect its object?’ ‘By clearing away the peccant matters.’ ‘But would not the diarrhœa scour away the peccant matter itself?’ ‘Not so well.’ This did not satisfy me. Neither could the surgeon clear up these points. ‘*For his part he did not understand physic.*’ I ‘walked’ the hospital at his elbow, as dresser, and inquired, ‘why do you apply a cold lotion to that

inflammation?' 'To moderate the action of the vessels.' 'Inflammation, then, is over-action of the vessels.' 'Yes.' 'Why do you apply that *astringent* to that other inflammation?' 'To diminish the action of the vessels.' Now the *action* of the vessels being *contraction*, my logic did not enable me to understand him."—*Billing*.

XII.

"There were several wards in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, of which the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians had the charge. One physician had the top ward, another the middle ward, and a third the lower ward. It happened that the same day three young persons of nearly the same age, ill of typhus fever, were admitted into the hospital. The disease was of equal severity in each, and the stage of complaint the same in all. What was the treatment, think you, pursued in these cases by the Fellows of the College? Of course it should have been the same, had the system been correct, for the physicians in question would choose the best. But, sir, it was not the same. He in the top ward *bled his patient with lancet and with leeches*. He in the middle ward *physicked his patient with drastic purgatives*; and if he saw a large comfortable effect, he gave praise and was content. He in the lower ward gave *whiskey, wine, and spirits*. What was the result of such deplorable freaks? I refer you to the statistic book; I have no doubt you will *find it there*."—*Dr. Macleod to Dr. Simpson*.

XIII.

"In the university two *professors* lectured, on alternate days, on clinical medicine. It happened that each had under his care at the same time, an acute case of *pericarditis*. The professor who lectured on Monday night said in substance as follows:—Gentlemen, as to the treatment of this disease, it has been the practice to give large doses of *mercury*, so as to bring the constitution under its action: and to effect this as rapidly as possible, small quantities of opium are usually combined with it. *This practice, however, I believe to be erroneous*, for I have observed the progress of the disease unchecked, even during profuse salivation. The most *efficient remedy*, in fact our *sheet-anchor*, in this disease is *tartar emetic*. You will have noticed the large doses of this remedy I have given, and yet the patient seems not to suffer from it. In fact the constitution in this disease, as in some others, has a remarkable tolerance for *tartar emetic*.' When the lecture was finished I left the hall, fancying I had learned some great truth, and knew better than an hour before how to save life. On Wednesday evening during the same week, in the same hall, and to the students, the other professor lectured. The lecture was devoted to the acute case of *pericarditis*, under his care in the hospital. He spoke in substance as follows: 'Gentlemen, it is a remarkable thing that there should be any difference in regard to

the mode of treatment to be pursued in a disease such as this. I believe it is the Italian and French schools which advocate so very strongly the employment of *tartar emetic*; but I would strongly urge you to put no *confidence in this remedy*; for if you do you will lean on a broken reed. Our *sheet-anchor* in this disease is *mercury*, under the action of which you must bring the patient as soon and as freely as you possibly can; even bleeding is of little importance in comparison with the use of *mercury*, and *never trust to tartar emetic!*

"What effect," Dr. Macleod says "was produced upon the minds of the students, by such opposite teachings I cannot say. I can, however speak for one. He walked down into the noble quadrangle in bitterness, and gave involuntary utterance to the words 'No wonder that Sir James Mackintosh forsook the study of medicine.'"—*Ibid.*

XIV.

"We have had patients at the *Hôpital de la Pitié*, subjected to the most different modes of treatment. Some took during the entire progress of the disease nothing but simple diluents, of an acidulous or mucilaginous nature, observed strict regimen and repose, and no active treatment was employed; others took no other medicines internally, but these same diluents, but bloodletting to a greater or less extent was employed. In several the skin was covered with sinapisms, or blisters, or irritated by stimulant friction. In some, cold applications were made to the head, and baths of various temperatures were employed. Purgatives, and more frequently emetics, were employed in a considerable number of cases; and lastly, with others a tonic and stimulant treatment was adopted. Several, either at the same period or at different stages of their illness, were treated at one and the same time, or successively, by two, three, or four of these methods. In endeavouring to estimate the influence of these different modes of treatment we shall find the most serious difficulties. Whatever the treatment employed there is a certain number of cases in which Nature conducts the affection to a favourable issue, or fatal termination, without the treatment having any share in the result."—*Andral's Medical Clinique.*

XV.

"If the perfection of the medical art consists in supplying a remedy for every disease, or, in other words, in employing medicines which will correct every morbid function of the body, our present knowledge of medicine is truly humiliating."—*Searle.*

"The term *Fever* is as mysterious as it is comprehensive. It is in a great degree peculiar to the human race, and never, as an idiopathic disease, affects the lower animals. The uncivilised man appears to possess, to a certain extent, an exemption; for the Negro tribes feel little of malarious fever, and the Indian races are far less subject to it than the Europeans. Have we any safe-

guard? None, but in the good-keeping, good-condition, physical and moral, of the troops. No *remedy* after the disease is established? *None whatever, in the way of physic; for the best physicians that ever existed will lose more patients than the most ignorant hospital mate, if he neglects the precautions of discipline and cleanliness: and if both be on a par in this respect, the event will, in nine cases out of ten, be precisely the same.* Hence it appears that physic does nothing, and has done nothing, towards establishing a better order of treatment since the days of Hippocrates."—*Fergusson*.

XVI.

"Having seen a great number of cases of the worst kind of *typhus fever*, in Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, and London, and having seen all kinds of treatment tried with nearly the same average success, I was at a loss to account for such contradictory results. I had always heard the subject reasoned on in a mathematical manner, and, of course, *expected precise consequences* to given premises; namely if (as one party say) you have ten cases of typhus fever and don't bleed, you are sure to lose half of them; but if you do bleed you will to a certainty save nine of them. The advocates of the other system make the calculations with the same confidence as to the results. To my surprise I found the *one party nearly as successful as the other.*"—*Simpson*.

XVII.

"I declare my conscientious opinion, founded upon long observation and reflection, that if there was not a single physician, surgeon, apothecary, man-midwife, chemist, druggist, or drug on the face of the earth, there would be less sickness and less mortality than now obtains. When we recollect that physic is a conjectural art; that the best physicians make mistakes; that medicine is administered by hosts of quacks; that it is swallowed by multitudes of people, without any professional advice at all; and that the world would be infinitely more careful of themselves were they conscious that they had no remedy from drugs: these and many other facts will shew that the proposition I have made is more startling than untrue. But as it is, drugs will be swallowed by all classes, rich and poor, with the hope of regaining health and prolonging life, and also with the expectation of being able to counteract the culpable indulgence of the appetite and passions, &c."—*James Johnson, Editor of the Medical Chirurgical Review*.

XVIII.

"I witnessed the treatment of fever in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, by two of its most talented physicians. One adopted the ultra stimulating method, the other the most rigid antiphlogistic measures; yet their success was about equal, and would perhaps have not been much less had medical aid been withheld altogether."—*Hastings*.

XIX.

“The first question in reference to fever is this—Can fever exist without some topical inflammation as its immediate or proximate cause? In other words, can fever be idiopathic or primary? or is it always and necessarily sympathetic? Recently two attempts have been made, one in this country, the other in France, to establish a localisation of fever. Dr. Clutterbuck has contended that continuous fever is, in fact, a peculiar inflammation of the brain;—M. Broussais, that it is a gastro-enterite. On the other hand, M. Louis has demonstrated, that morbid changes in the brain, the mucous coat of the stomach and intestines, are equally frequent in other diseases, and typhus fever; and M. Andrai and M. Louis have proved that the cerebral symptoms bear no relation to the morbid appearances either of the brain or the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal, and after many reasons advanced, M. Louis quite decides against the opinions of M. Broussais.”—*Dr. M. Hall.*

XX.

“Look at the history of inflammation; on that, also, the physical sciences throw an immense light. They commence by showing the absurdity of a term which bears the stamp of a barbarous age in which it was adopted. ‘Inflammation!’ In the pathological change which this word designates, do we discover *fire* or *flame*, or anything analogous to it? In inflammation there are phenomena which we must study rather as natural philosophers than as physiologists or pathologists, and upon which we have still many researches to make before we can discover its true nature. Nearly all the authors who have written on inflammation tell us, that an exaltation of the nervous power or influence is one of the first determining causes of the inflammatory action of vessels, but my experiments completely demonstrate the error of this theory.”—*Magendie.*

XXI.

“It does not appear to me that I used too strong an expression formerly, in speaking of the confusion which has existed in medicine; and, as an example, I need only refer to the striking fact noticed in this work, that the two words, Inflammation and Irritation, which are most frequently in the mouths of medical men, are up to this day perpetually used in a double or equivocal sense.”—*Billing.*

XXII.

“Inflammation, for example, has its immediate seat in the minute or capillary blood-vessels.”—*Professor Sharpy.*

“It is very common to say that, in inflammation, there is an increase of arterial action; but a consideration of the phenomena, and of the nature of arterial action, will show that, in inflamed parts, the capillary arteries are weaker in their action, that there

is diminished arterial action, for the action of the arteries is contraction.

"Some capillaries are too small to admit many of the red particles, unless when they are enlarged by inflammation."—*Billing*.

"Who knows anything about 'debility,' or 'increased action of the capillary vessels, when it is not even known whether these vessels have any tissues, or any action at all? If you wish to become acquainted with the theories, as they are improperly called, of inflammation, you may read the works of Dr. Wilson Phillips, Dr. Hastings, and especially the work of Dr. J. Thomson: but if you wish to become acquainted with the true theory of inflammation, read the book of nature. Accordingly we find two sets of philosophers disputing whether there be increased or diminished action of these vessels (the capillaries), and two other sets disputing whether these very vessels be really vessels at all, or only mere canals.

"In inflammation the red globules get into vessels that do not carry such in their natural state."—*Hume Weatherhead*.

"There are writers who suppose that there is a series of blood-vessels so minute as not to admit the blood-globules; this is mere unfounded hypothesis. There are no such serous globuleless vessels."—*Dr. M. Hall*.

XXIII.

The *Lancet*, in speaking of a joint work, by Dr. Bright and Dr. Addison, "The Elements of the Practice of Medicine," says, "Their theory of fever is derived from others, whose principles require no exertion of ours to hurry into oblivion." Again, "The two doctors are evidently bitten with the Hamiltonian mania, and cry out with pertinancy, to purge! purge! purge! It might have been expected that the *reductio ad absurdum* demonstration respecting the universal employment of calomel, which the late Dr. James Currie afforded, would have deterred his successors from riding the same velocipede; but the air of our hospitals is thoroughly antiseptic in its influence over error and prejudice."

XXIV.

"Medicine, considered as a system, or body of doctrine, is still, at the best, in a very defective state. Every page of medical reviews admits and laments this unfortunate truth."—*Andrew Combe*.

XXV.

"Medicine can only exist, but inasmuch as patients have faith in it, and claims its assistance, it is not by theories that it lives, but by clients. Listen to those whom you meet with in society, and you will be surprised to hear of the wonderful cures which homœopathy has performed. Moreover, we must not deny that many patients have recovered their health in a most unhoped-for

manner while under homœopathic treatment. This brings back to a question which I have often raised, and which I have endeavoured to elucidate by experiments for the last forty years, namely, what is the influence of treatment on the progress of disease? ”—*Magendie*.

Dr. Louis, a physician of large practice in France, has published a work on phthisis, which was translated into English, owing to the celebrity of the author. Some few years after the treatment had been put to practical test in England, the same author published a second edition, in which he says that his first researches are more than doubled in extent, and there *the doctrines professed in regard to the most important subjects, curability and treatment, are almost diametrically opposed in the two editions!*

XXVI.

Dr. Forbes, one of Her Majesty's physicians, after saying that medicine has never improved, from the time of its earliest practice to the present day, admitting that it has caused more evil to society than good, and detailing the defects, makes the following statements in view to reform:—

“To endeavour to substitute for the *monstrous system* of poly-pharmacy, now universally prevalent, one that is at least vastly more simple, more intelligible, more agreeable, and it may be hoped, more rational, more scientific, more certain, and more beneficial.

“To inculcate generally a milder and less energetic mode of practice both in acute and chronic diseases; to encourage the expectant preferably to the heroic system, at least where the indications of treatment are not manifest.

“To discountenance all active and powerful medication in the acute exaristhemata, and eschew the habitual use of certain powerful medicines in large doses, in a multitude of different diseases, a practice now generally prevalent, and fraught with the most baneful consequences.

“This is one of the besetting sins of English practice, and originates partly in false theory, and partly in the desire to see *manifest and strong* effects resulting from the action of remedies. Mercury, iodine, colchicum, antimony, also purgatives in general, and blood-letting, are *frightfully misused* in this manner. To encourage the administration of simple, feeble, or altogether powerless, non-perturbing medicines, in all cases in which drugs are prescribed, *pro forma*, for the satisfaction of the patient's mind, and not with the view of producing any direct remedial effect.

“One would hardly think such a caution necessary, were it not that every day observation proves it to be so. The system of giving and also of taking drugs capable of producing some obvious effect, on the sensations at least, if not on the functions,

has become so inveterate in this country, that even our 'placebos' have, in the hands of our modern doctors, lost their original quality of harmlessness, and often please their very patients more by being made unpleasant.

"To make every effort not merely to destroy the prevalent system of giving a vast quantity of unnecessary and useless drugs (to say the least of them), but to encourage extreme simplicity in the prescription of medicines that seem to be requisite.

"To endeavour to break through the routine habit *universally prevalent* of prescribing certain determinate remedies for certain determinate diseases or symptoms, merely because the prescriber has been taught to do so, and on no better grounds than conventional tradition.

XXVII.

"But so completely at variance with each other are even the greatest medical authorities on every subject in medicine, that I do not know a single disease in which you will find any two of them agreeing. Take the subject of pulmonary consumption for example. The celebrated Stohl attributed the frequency of consumption to the introduction of Peruvian bark; the equally celebrated Morton considered the bark an effectual cure; Reid ascribed its frequency to the use of mercury; Brillonet asserted that it is only curable by mercury; Rush says, that consumption is an inflammatory disease, and should be treated by bleeding, purging, cooling medicines, and starvations; Salvadori maintained the disease to be one of debility, and that it should be treated by tonics, stimulating remedies, and generous diet."—
DICKSON'S FALLACIES OF THE FACULTY.

Out of the profession many celebrated writers and philosophers have also exercised their wit, and shown their contempt of the profession.

XXVIII.

Read, for instance, the following extracts:—

"Call in a doctor, and if you do not like his physic, I will soon find another who will condemn it."—*Molière*.

"Death has two wings; on one are painted war, plague, famine, fire, shipwreck; on the other wing you behold a crowd of young physicians. Death proceeds to dub them doctors, having first made them swear never in any way to alter the established practice of medicine."—*Le Sage*.

"I have got well by the blessings of barley-water, and refusing to see my physician."—*Lord Byron*.

"I consider that the medical profession in our country is in a state of absolute barbarism."—*Joseph Hume, M.P.*

"Medical men seldom get time to practise on the rich till they have maltreated and murdered the poor; or have got what is called experience. At least eighteen out of twenty British

licentiates are not fit to practise with safety until they have gained experience in this shameful way; the poor themselves must be massacred to make doctors for the rich.”—*Dr. McCullough*.

What has Mr. Bowman to say to this? Where are these much-vaunted “*principles of medical philosophy that have stood the test of thousands of years?*” Perhaps he possesses the thread of Ariana to penetrate safely into the dark labyrinth of human miseries! But the fact is, that these principles have only stood THE TEST OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS, just like boiling pitch had stood the test in stanching blood after an amputation.

Ambroise Paré, who was the first surgeon who introduced the ligature as a substitute for this barbarous application of boiling pitch, met with the same arguments in opposition that homœopathy does in our days. He was hushed down and ridiculed by the faculty, college of surgeons, and other would-be learned doctors. It was considered preposterous to hang human life upon a thread when boiling pitch HAD STOOD THE TEST OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS.”

Although it is, perhaps, superfluous to adduce so many quotations, I cannot refrain from giving one more extract taken from an American philosopher:—

XXIX.

“The antiquity of a science or doctrine has but little to do with its truthfulness, importance, or improvements; indeed, the ancientness or oldness of doctrine is almost positive evidence that it originated in ignorance, superstition, and error. Human testimony is ever varying; but the teachings and manifestations of nature and pure reason are simple and unchangeable. If, therefore, physicians of learning, experience, and influence had consulted these unmistakable authorities, instead of the mere superficial experience and false principles of men and books, and practised accordingly, truth would at this day diffuse her golden rays over the science of medicine and pathology. But what are the facts? They are these—physicians and pathological writers have been, and are now, educated in certain fixed and orthodox paths, and everything—position, education, public opinion, pride, ignorance, prejudice, fear—yes, everything conspires and combines to prevent them from making the least advancement.”—*A. J. Davis*.

In reference to the treatment of croup, Mr. Bowman says, “*That our main reliance in this disease must be placed on bleeding, and that largely, antimony in emetic doses, and calomel. If the disease goes on the second stage, a totally different treatment must be adopted: hot mustard bath, emetics of sulphate of copper, blister, and the CHILD MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MERCURY. Still unable to arrest*

the disease, we must have recourse to stimulants, expectorants, ammonia, beef-tea, wine, and even brandy-and-water. So bleeding, blisters, and brandy-and-water may each in turn be INDISPENSABLE."

No wonder that children are said to die in a wholesale manner by Mr. Brown, whose honorable initiative gave origin to the attack upon homœopathy, and, consequently, to this answer. The machine invented by Dr. Guillotin in the Age of Terror, was not more destructive than this infamous treatment. Where are the poor innocent children that have resisted this storm of medical skill? Mr. Bowman should be condemned to undergo this treatment once in his life, and he would know better after.

Mr. Bowman is ignorant that blood is the greatest prerogative of life, and that depletion is acknowledged by eminent practitioners to have been the most destructive error lately inculcated in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Brera, a most celebrated continental physician, referring to the treatment of pneumonia, notes:—

100 cases treated without bleeding	-	-	14 died.
" "	with 2 or 3 bleedings	-	19 "
" "	with 3 to 9 bleedings	-	22 "
" "	with more than 9 bleedings		68 "

The learned and honest Professor Searle remarks—"The antiphlogistic system in inflammation often destroys life when the disease would not; and even when life is preserved, a serious injury is often inflicted upon the constitution. Why are such severe means employed on such slender grounds? Because inflammation, like fever, is a bugbear. If Hippocrates were to revisit the earth, and see the myriads at this time in England under the antiphlogistic treatment, he would, in witnessing its effects, naturally inquire, 'What are the rules of treatment in inflammatory diseases?' and when he heard of nothing but the antiphlogistic system, what a lament would he offer for mankind; that twenty centuries should have produced in the chief department of medical practice, nothing better than a rule without a reason."

What are "*the principles of medical philosophy*" which Mr. Bowman invokes, when in the same disease he uses depletion (directly with bleeding, and indirectly with antimony and mercury), and the opposite treatment that is to follow the non-success of this, *i.e., stimulants, beef tea, wine and brandy-and-water?* It seems to us that as far as principles of medicines go, depletion is opposed to stimulants, and the one as a principle is a condemnation of the other. What a different light homœopathy throws upon this disease, and what a different result is obtained!

Mr. Bowman speaks of *putting an infant under the influence of mercury*. How it makes one's blood shudder, that in the nineteenth century there should be such practitioners of the noble art of healing, who use their professional influence in perfecting

crimes against humanity ; and people are so infatuated with the professional prestige that they will have their health ruined, their children slaughtered in the name of science, sooner than to trench upon habit and deviate from routine and tradition.

Mercury, the medical agent of lamentable predilection to Mr. Bowman has been so much in use in the orthodox school, that many honest practitioners and chemists have studied and noticed the dreadful consequences that follow its use even years after.

XXX.

“ Mineral poisons,” says the celebrated Dr. Cheyne, are “ the most destructive to animal bodies that malice can invent, beyond gunpowder itself, or even spirituous liquors ; for nature has provided none such, but as poisons in venomous creatures to kill their enemies. They become iron bristles, nails, and lancets darting perpendicularly into the solids of the body, so as to quickly tear, rend, and destroy, and therefore can never be proper for food or physic.”

Sir Charles Aldis thus sums up his views upon the matter :—

XXXI.

“ Mercury used in scrofulous glands generally increases them, by exciting into action the irritability of the constitution. It also quickens the pulse, occasions purgings even to the evacuation of blood, and has even been known to produce mortification by an inflammation in the mouth. Its most general effects are a prostration of strength, attended with cold rigors, profuse perspiration, a trembling of the limbs, loss of appetite, paleness of the countenance, violent headache, cramp in the stomach, and vomiting, and dismal climax, ending in eruptions of the leprous kind, which sometimes spread over the whole body. * * * There is hardly a constitution which has been at all subject to its influence, that does not suffer in the end from the noxious properties of this poisonous mineral.”

Dr. Alley records a case in which “ an eruption appeared over the entire body of a boy about seven years old, for whom but three grains of calomel had been prescribed ineffectually as a purgative.”

XXXII.

The learned Dr. Beach says—“ Mercury appears to destroy the energy of the nervous system ; producing weakness, tremors, palsies, fatuity, epilepsy, and mania, the most dreadful of all its bad consequences ; and, indeed, no part of the body is exempt from its deleterious effects. The patient becomes hectic, has a small quick pulse, and there is often a tendency to a colliquation on the skin and bowels, and a wasting atrophy of the flesh ; his countenance is pale and wan ; his nights are

bad ; his appetite is impaired ; his strength much reduced ; and he complains of general irritability with headache, and flying pains in his bones, especially on the approach of bad weather, rain, or frost."

XXXIII.

The late Sir Astley Cooper, lecturing to the students of Guy's Hospital, said :

"It is lamentable to reflect on the number of lives that must have been destroyed by phthisis and otherwise, in consequence of the imprudent exhibition of mercury. Look, gentlemen, at one hundred patients who come into the hospitals. What is the miserable treatment of these patients? You are aware that I scarcely ever enter these wards of the hospital. I will tell you why I do not enter them. I abstain from entering them because patients are compelled to undergo so infamous a system of treatment, that I cannot bear to witness it. To compel an unfortunate patient to undergo a course of mercury for disease which does not require it, is a proceeding that *reflects disgrace and dishonor on the character of medicine*. No consideration shall induce me to repress my feelings, and I do say that the present treatment of patients is infamous and disgraceful ; for their health is irretrievably destroyed."

XXXIV.

Raspail, a celebrated chemist of France, has bestowed great attention upon the source of chronic ailments, which he found to have been produced by the use of the various metallic preparations which the orthodox school advocates.

"Metallic poisons," says this eminent man, "have all a character which permit us often to distinguish them by the difference of their effects. Lead causes the tanning of the mucous membrane, producing the most severe colic of the intestines ; copper produces analogous effects, but not with the same intensity ; zinc is characterised by diarrhœa, dysentery, and weight in the head ; the nitrate of silver by the superficial disorganisation of the mucous or the skin, and the purple discoloration of the tissue ; alkalies, soda and potassa, by dissolving or carbonising the tissue. Like other insolubles, alkalies, soda and potassa run more deeply into the tissue than lime, baryta, &c. ; arsenic, when it does not cause death immediately, causes pustular eruptions on the skin, and sometimes sanguine tumors, much resembling cancer ; mercury is so various in its effects, that it is not possible to describe its symptoms—exostoses, strumous tumours, decay of the bones, ulcerations, running sores, discoloration of the skin, cutaneous diseases, herpetris, phlytenoid cancers, loosening of the teeth, ulceration of the vocal cords, disease of the genital organs, excrescences on the arms, gouty affections, ancylosis, induration of the glands,

engorgements of the lymphatic ganglions, and a fearful range of disasters, which spoil the future generation and horribly afflict the present.

"Mercury," continues the same author, "being so often employed in the laboratories and manufactories, it often happens that people are infected with it without being aware of it, or even suspecting it possible. Children of the working classes, playing in the neighborhood of the workshop of some gilder, may, by putting their little hands or feet in clear limpid water, while amusing themselves as children do, get a malady which disorganises the skin and attacks the very bones. When I think of the numerous cases of paraplegy to which scientific men who manipulated mercury are subject, I cannot refrain from thinking that they must be the result of imprudence during the operations."

The noxious properties of steel are not less fatal in the disorganisation of healthy tissue, although less common, because in less use by the profession. Next to steel, arsenic, iodine, and antimony are productive of a peculiar catalogue of diseases, in the study of which the orthodox practice of medicine present a large scope. Other great medical agents of the old school are narcotics and intoxicating stimulants, the use of which has been accurately examined by the same author. "Stupifying poisons," he says, "suspend the intellectual relation of man with the external world, paralyse his faculties, and keep him in a dreamy state. Sometimes he preserves sight and hearing where he loses voice and locomotion; he is dead to the world, and sees himself as it were buried alive. In fact, he suffers for the time a terrible nightmare, and is thrown into a state of apathy for everything around him. Intoxicating poisons disturb the circulation of the blood by sanguine congestions, determined by their specific action, and thus cause disorders of the muscular system, in consequence of the circulation being interrupted in the sanguinous channels.

* * * Stupifying poisons suspend the circulation of the blood, intoxicating poisons congest it; the first class have ammonia for their basis—they liquify the blood without altering it; the second are alcoholic, and coagulate it; the other poisons commence their disorder in the tissues before acting on the circulatory liquids. As soon as the circulation is suspended, the nervous system loses its action and becomes paralysed. When the circulation is congested, the influence of the nervous system is irregular; the harmony of the movement and sensibilities is impaired; disorders are manifested in both body and mind; the animal economy is the passive instrument of the chemical reactions, instead of being master of the will and actions. An individual never recovers completely by poisoning by a large dose, he is sure to be injured; but the nature and extent of the mischief will vary according to the organs on which the medicines have transmitted the violence of the poison. If poison is given in small doses it acts without

the patient being conscious of it, because it does not react except on decayed and endermic surfaces of the affected organs."

The collection of the above opinions of learned men forms no part of the truth of homœopathy; they are only adduced here to show the state of medicine, the importance of reform, and the lamentable bigotry of the profession to condemn homœopathy without examination. "Let us scout quacks and pretenders as we may," says Dr. Combe, "homœopathy presents too strong a *primâ facie* case to warrant our dismissing it with mere ridicule and contempt. * * * Ridicule and declamation may be rightfully employed to explode errors *after they shall have been proved to be so*; but they are most unfit instruments for the primary investigation of truth, and as such ought to be banished for ever from scientific discussion, and a candid spirit of philosophical inquiry be substituted in their room."

Mr. Bowman finds it very easy to call homœopathy the *dolce far niente*, or the doing nothing system, in which many old sinners of the profession are at last trusting, while lamentably condemning the energetic and perturbing methods of their early practice. As nature always restores health and overcomes disease, even in the most dangerous forms, where no treatment has been observed, or where two opposite courses of treatment were followed, it becomes a difficult matter to establish a medical fact,—namely, a cure positively due to the adviser. It is not enough that a system should adduce its success, it must also stand the test of sound reasoning. As it is within the scope of man to understand what is true, simple, and in accordance with the laws of nature, people need not have been brought up to the medical profession to understand the truth and fallacies of medicine, when they exercise their faculties and judgment in a right direction, nor do they require taking degrees of divinity to discriminate between true religion and fanaticism. Mr. Bowman's idea on the subject is degrading to those by whom it is taken for granted, the truth is quite the contrary of his proposition. Peruvian bark, the acknowledged specific of ague, was in popular use a long time before the faculty admitted it in its Pharmacopea, and in 1609 the French Academy expelled one of its members for curing his patients with that remedy. When Louis XV. was suffering from this malady, and his learned advisers were unable to cure him, an English quack was sent for, who before proceeding to prescribe for his august majesty, had to undergo an examination from the "high priest" of science. The question was first ironically put to him, "What is intermittent fever?" "*It is a disease,*" he answered, "*WHICH YOU CANNOT CURE, AND WHICH I CAN.*" His majesty having recovered, the wonderful agent was acknowledged. The same learned body, which had been opposed to inoculation for fifty years, seeing that people would be vaccinated, and that three princes of the royal blood had been inoculated, contrary to their permis-

sion, at last acknowledged its value. In 1642, this assembly of learned men, who had declared that the blood did not circulate in the body, and thirty years after that it was impossible, did not admit this phenomenon before they discovered it to be a publicly acknowledged truth.

In the sixteenth century the discoverer of the curative properties of cantharides was committed to Newgate by warrant of the President of the College of Physicians, for the GROSS OFFENCE of curing his patients with a treatment opposed to "THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SCHOOL!" Since the faculty have acknowledged the medicinal value of antimony, Peruvian bark, cantharides, the judicial use of the same remedies have become converted into such abuse, that, in their turn, they now become the elements of complicating the evils to which flesh is subjected to.

Mr. Bowman establishes a comparison *between homœopathy and Mormonism*; "both," he says, "*are a tissue of contradictions and absurdities.*" But what are they? How true it is that a fool can deny more with one proposition than a learned philosopher can prove during his whole life? What study has he bestowed on the subject? What does he know beyond the misrepresentation of an interested clique? How unfair and mean it is for a scientific opponent to invoke religious feelings and prejudices against a dissention in therapeutics. If Mr. Bowman were writing in Rome, he would draw a comparison between Hahnemann and Luther; if in Constantinople, between Homœopathy and Christianity.

Dr. Bowman says "*Homœopathy is a popular delusion against which reason is of little avail!*" This mode of arguing does not reveal a champion of the highest order in science. What a difference with Dr. Routh, a London practitioner of merit, who in writing against homœopathy, enters the arena with some courteous regard towards his adversaries. "The system of homœopathy," says Dr. Routh, "has unfortunately lately made, and continues to make such a progress in this country (England), and the metropolis in particular, and is daily extending its influence, *even amongst the most learned*, and those whose high position in society gives them no little moral power over the opinions of the multitude, that our profession is, I think, bound to make it the subject of inquiry and investigation. * * * Violent opposition to homœopathy can do no good. Abuse and intolerance cannot be accepted by the world as a fair and philosophical inquiry."

Dr. Bowman terminates his diatribe against homœopathy by borrowing arguments from Professor Simpson's work, "*The Tenets and Tendencies of Homœopathy.*" The celebrated obstetrician denies that any effect whatever can be produced in the system by that which has neither length, breadth, nor thickness, neither chemical nor sensible properties. Dr. Henderson, not less cele-

brated as professor of pathology in the same university, has answered the professor of midwifery in his "*Homœopathy fairly represented, in reply to Dr. Simpson's 'Homœopathy misrepresented,'*" a work which Mr. Bowman has certainly not taken the trouble to read. In that work Dr. Henderson adduces allopathic testimony to the efficacy of small doses; he cites M. Boudin's method of curing ague, which had resisted quinine, with a single dose of the hundredth of a grain of arsenic: "What an infinitesimal quantity of medicine to affect so powerfully so vast and disproportionate a quantity of matter! But allopathy affords a still more remarkable fact, a fact, indeed, which deprives her of all right to quarrel with any system on the score of its minute doses. Mr. Hunt, an allopathic physician, apparently of long standing, and much experience published, in 1847, an interesting little volume on the treatment of certain intractable chronic skin diseases. At page 14 of that work he says: '*A fourth part of a minim of Fowler's solution, taken thrice a day, has in a few weeks effected the permanent cure of psoriasis guttata in a female of delicate habit, intolerant alike, in a high degree, of all mineral substances.*' Fowler's solution is a solution of arsenite of potass, in which the arsenious acid and the potass are present in about equal quantities. The great allopathic review—the *British and Foreign*—in 1847, accepts Mr. Hunt's case as genuine and true, and remarks that each of his doses contained only *the four hundred and eightieth part of a grain* of white arsenic, or arsenious acid. Now, as susceptibility to arsenic or to any other medicine does not depend on, and has no connection with, the weight of an individual, there is no reason whatever why our already-selected fifteen-stone patient should not be sensitive to the same dose. The 480th part of a grain is to fifteen stone, as one is to seven hundred and five millions six hundred thousand; or as a mile to a line that might pass above seven times between the earth and the sun; or that might pass twenty-eight thousand two hundred times round the earth! In short, nearly as one pound is to the whole national debt, or as one man to all the inhabitants of the world. Since doses of medicine do not require to be increased in proportion to the weight of the person who takes them, and if in the proportion of one to about seven hundred millions they are unquestionably effectual as remedies, why may they not when in the proportion of one to seven thousand millions, or seven hundred thousand millions?"

But taking another view of Dr. Simpson's objection, different from that of his more talented adversary, Dr. Henderson, we maintain against Dr. Simpson that there does not exist in nature *anything* which has neither length, breadth, or thickness; and we can show to the naked eyes of the detractors of homœopathy if they are not physically as blind as they are mentally, the 100,000th part of a drop of sulphuric acid.

An experiment of Newton has shown to the naked eye the 1,757,600,000,000,000,000th part of a cubic inch of soap. Dr. Thompson has shown that the 888,492,000,000,000th of a cubic inch of lead may be rendered visible. Electro-gilding and photographic processes furnish instances of the divisibility of matter, and the remarks of Dr. John Epps, of London, imply a great truth:—"Indeed, it is a truth that the mass of rock is a mass not because of any power in the rock as a mass, but on account of the innumerable attractions between infinitesimal particles of which the mass is composed. It is not wonderful that the vulgar should doubt the action and the power of infinitesimal quantities, but that writers who profess to be scientific should exhibit wonder thereat, is exhibitivè of the to-be-lamented fact, that many profess to be the votaries of science who have never paid the requisite dues at her shrine."

All the opponents of homœopathy, anxious of securing the approbation of an ignorant public, adopt invariably as a last resource the subject of infinitesimal doses. But have we not many facts which show the wonderful results of infinitesimal atoms. Take, for instance, cholera, the poison of snakes, vaccine, a morbid virus, in the material substance of which no chemist is able to detect the presence of a principle inimical to life, although the perfection of modern chemistry is able to detect a quantity of silver equal to the billionth of a cubic line. To bestow ridicule and contempt upon the least atom of creation appears to us a blasphemy of nature. No one knows what is small or large; the Almighty alone knows the extreme difference which exists between the largest of the innumerable spheres which fill up the universe and the smallest atom of creation.

In short, the book of Dr. Simpson, which is the authority of Mr. Bowman, can be proved to be a gross misrepresentation of homœopathy; the most disgraceful falsehoods are the weapons used when arguments are wanted, as the following illustrates:—Dr. Simpson cites Mr. Edwin Lee, the medical traveller for *Bradshaw's Guide*, as his authority for certain trials of homœopathy, by order of the Neapolitan government, which trials resulted in the signal discomfiture of homœopathists. According to Mr. Lee, the condemnatory resolutions of the committee appointed to investigate the homœopathic practice are thus worded:—1st. The homœopathic treatment produced no effect. 2nd. It had the serious inconvenience for several of the patients of preventing the employment of remedies by which they might be cured; while the correct facts are the following, which we quote from the sixth and seventh volumes of the *Bib. Ho. de Genève*:—

"The late King Francis the First was very partial to the homœopathic method. He showed this partiality by appointing, in 1828, to the service of the Military Hospital of the Trinity, the homœopathist, Dr. de Horatiis, his own physician in ordinary. In course of

time, Dr. de Horatiis published a small volume, giving the details of the cases he had treated at this hospital. This little work created a great sensation in Naples, the opponents of homœopathy denying the truth of the cures said to have been effected by the author. The king determined on bringing the question to an issue by causing arrangements to be made whereby the homœopathic treatment should be put to the most rigorous test. With this view a royal decree was promulgated on the 28th February, 1829, of which the following is a literal translation :—

“ ‘ A homœopathic clinique shall be opened and subjected to regulations, the strictness and sagacious arrangement of which shall serve to remove all doubt and prejudice, to prevent all fraud and partiality. The necessary precautions shall be taken to establish the diagnosis of the diseases, to determine the choice of the remedies, their potency, and their dose. Finally, a register shall be kept of the different phases of the diseases and of their termination.

“ ‘ Article 1st.—A commission, composed of upright and learned men, shall be present in the ward of the clinique during the preparation of the remedies, and their distribution to the patients affected with acute or chronic diseases. This commission shall be composed (1) of four members of the University, two of whom must be physicians ; (2) of two members of the Royal Academy of Medicine and Surgery ; and (3) of all the medical officers of the Hospital of Trinity.

“ ‘ Article 2nd.—The commissioners having met together, shall satisfy themselves of the degrees of dynamization of the homœopathic medicines. These medicines shall be shut up in a box with a double lock and a double key in the presence of the commissioners ; one of the keys shall remain in the hands of the members of the commission, and the other shall be confided to the director of the clinique. This box shall be shut up in a cupboard, to be erected by the superior officer in command of the grand hospital in the ward of the clinique, the key of which he shall retain, and only give it to the director of the clinique in the presence of the commissioners. The director must return the key to the commandant immediately after the conclusion of his visit.

“ ‘ Article 3rd.—The ward of the clinique shall only have one door, which shall be guarded by a sentinel. This ward shall be large, light, well situated, and capable of containing from thirteen to twenty beds, which shall be entrusted to two assistant physicians, one of whom shall be chosen by the director, the other by the members of the commission. These physicians shall keep a journal, in which shall be entered exactly all that may happen in the absence of the director and of the commissioners. They shall maintain a constant watch over the patients, shall take care that the regimen is exactly followed, shall not allow any one to enter the ward, except those persons who only come to see it, and shall in no case allow them to read the cards placed over the beds, to look at the journals, nor question the patients.

“Article 4th.—The admission of the patients shall be agreed upon in common by the commissioners and the director. The latter shall never be forced to admit patients whose diseases are not perfectly definite. Patients who are affected with diseases which allopathists consider to be incurable shall be admitted in preference.

“Article 5.—The commissioners and the director should be always present at the visit, which shall take place at a fixed hour. As soon as a patient is admitted, the medical commissioners shall make the diagnosis of the disease ; their opinion shall be immediately registered and signed by all the commissioners present, by all the directors of the clinique, and the other assistant physicians.

“Article 6.—Every day at the visit, the commissioners, as well as the directors, shall investigate the state of the patients, shall insert it in the journal, and shall give their advice respecting the medicines that ought to be given.

“Article 7.—A report shall be made of the cures effected, and of the diseases that have not been cured. This report shall state exactly the order of the treatment and the remedies given, during all the time the patient has been under treatment. This report, signed by the commissioners, the director, and the assistant physician, shall be preserved in the archives of the clinique, and a copy of it shall be delivered to the director, who may publish it.

“Article 8.—In case of the absence of one of the commissioners, or of the director, their deputies shall be authorised to sign for their chiefs.’

“The following is a list of the medical commissioners and their deputies :—

“Dr. Macry, Professor of the Faculty of Medicine ; Dr. Marchesani, his deputy.

“Dr. Jolinea, Member of the University ; Dr. Alessi, his deputy.

“Dr. Ronchi, physician to the king ; Dr. Albanese, his deputy.

“Dr. Delforno ; Dr. Araneo, his deputy.

“Dr. Lanza ; Dr. Curti, his deputy.

“Dr. Lucarelli ; Dr. Panvini, his deputy.

“Dr. de Horatiis was the homœopathic physician appointed to treat the cases, and he had for his deputy Dr. Romani. The treatment was commenced on the 13th April, 1829.

“The number of times each of the commissioners attended the clinique was duly registered, and so we are able to see what amount of attention they paid to the treatment pursued. Thus we find that Dr. Macry never went near the hospital ; his deputy, however, Dr. Marchesani, was very assiduous in his attendance, and, from what he witnessed, became so firmly convinced of the truth of the system, that he published a little pamphlet, declaring his belief in homœopathy, and exposing the absurdities of its detractors.

“Dr. Jolinea only attended the hospital on Dr. de Horatiis’ first visit, and, from what he then saw, he considered himself fully entitled to sign the report condemning homœopathy as a useless and pernicious system. His deputy, however, Dr. Alessi, was very diligent

in his attendance, was converted to homœopathy, and made a report on his own hook, favorable to the treatment, and directly opposed to the report of the other commissioners.

“Dr. Delforno was present three or four times. Having predicted the speedy death of some patients, who had the good fortune to survive his sinister auguries, apparently disgusted that patients should get well in spite of his prognosis, which, probably, never occurred in his own practice, he ceased to attend, and allowed his deputy, Dr. Araneo, to take his place. This gentleman made himself very offensive by trying to persuade the patients that experiments were being made upon them, and that they would be allowed to die without any proper remedies being given.

“Dr. Lanza went to the hospital seven or eight times, but apparently unwilling to compromise his reputation, he never pronounced any opinion on the trial. His deputy, Dr. Curti, seems to have been a very unpleasant individual, for he made a point of quarrelling with his colleagues, for which he was called to order by his chief, Dr. Lanza.

“Dr. Lucarelli only came once to the hospital, and then only to demand that a stop should be put to the homœopathic treatment. Possibly he may have thought that if it were allowed to go on much longer, it would do no good to allopathy. His deputy, Dr. Panvini, published a book against Dr. de Horatiis, entitled ‘Forty Days of Homœopathic Hospital Treatment,’ in which he exerted his utmost ingenuity to get up a case against the system, by denying *in toto* the results obtained.

“Dr. Ronchi only came to the hospital five or six times, and then only to make the most sinister predictions. His deputy, Dr. Albanese, it would seem, tried to realise the unfavorable auguries of his chief, for he was publicly accused of attempting to poison the patients in order to prevent their recovery under homœopathy. This accusation—which might have been attended with serious consequences to Dr. Albanese, had not Drs. de Horatiis and Romani generously interfered—was occasioned by the fact that Dr. Albanese was detected distributing figs to the patients without the knowledge of the physicians who were charged with the treatment. One patient who ate of these figs had all the symptoms of poisoning. What made the matter more suspicious was, that Dr. Albanese had predicted the death of this patient in the presence of several other medical men who were visiting the ward at the time, but who expressed it as their opinion that the patient was convalescent. An investigation was held on the demand of the director of the clinique to investigate the affair, and it was proved by numerous witnesses that Dr. Albanese had distributed to some of the patients these figs, enjoining them not to mention the circumstance to the visiting medical officers.

“After the homœopathic treatment had been carried on for two or three weeks, a report was industriously circulated that two of the patients had died. The rumour reached the king’s ears, who forth-

with despatched his royal relative the Duke of Calabria, accompanied by two general officers, to inquire into its truth. His Royal Highness was charmed to find that the report had no foundation, and that no fatal case had occurred, so that the homœopathic treatment was ordered to be continued.

“On the fortieth day of the treatment, the six commissioners and their deputies unexpectedly invited the homœopaths to render an account of their treatment. A long and stormy discussion ensued, which only had this effect, that the allopathic commissioners retired altogether from attendance at the hospital, and addressed a secret report to the President of Public Instruction, containing the damnable resolutions so triumphantly paraded by Mr. Edwin Lee and his followers.

This report was, in due course, transmitted to the Minister of the Interior, by whom it was read in the Council of State. The king was astonished to find the conclusion of the commissioners so different from what he had anticipated. It would seem that His Majesty innocently supposed that the report would contain the logical conclusions from the results obtained from the homœopathic treatment, in place of the concentrated essence of the prejudices of the commissioners, and of their disgust at the part they had been compelled to play. However that may be, the king commanded to be shewn the documents on which the report was professedly founded. Accordingly, on the 9th of June his aide-de-camp, the Duke de San Valentino, accompanied by Lieut.-General la Gona, Inspector-General of Military Hospitals, proceeded to the hospital, sealed up all the papers relating to the treatment, and conveyed them to the king. His Majesty scrutinised them attentively. He was perfectly satisfied, and in place of ordering the immediate cessation of the homœopathic treatment, as the allopaths hoped he would have done, he recommended that it should be continued.

“But the commissioners had taken the sulks, and would no longer consent to be the witnesses of a system they detested. Some of their deputies continued to attend and to sign the day-book. The chief physician and surgeon of the hospital, also, who were commissioners *de jure*, and who had taken no part in the report above alluded to, continued faithfully to visit the ward, and signed the histories of the cases regularly every day.

“The homœopathic treatment was continued for 155 days, viz., until the 17th of September. The reason of its cessation then was this. The king set out for Spain, and as he could not travel without his physician in ordinary, Dr. de Horatiis was obliged to give up his successful treatment in the hospital in order to accompany His Majesty. Dr. Romani seems to have been unwilling to encounter the whole labor and responsibility of conducting the homœopathic treatment in the midst of a host of foes, so he gave in his resignation when his colleague was thus summoned away.

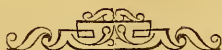
“The results of the 155 days of treatment were as follow :—The number of patients admitted for treatment was 68 ; of these, 52

were perfectly cured, 6 remained in hospital convalescent, and 2 died, who had been brought to the hospital in a moribund state, having already received extreme unction.

“A State paper was issued by the Government, commenting upon the results obtained from the homœopathic treatment in the hospital. In this paper the report of the commissioners is very severely censured in the following passages. Here are its exact words : ‘The report of the commissioners to the President of Public Instruction differs much from the tenor of the papers of the clinique. In the former, where the result of the treatment is favorable, it is attributed to nature, and the diseases are represented as having been of little importance, or else the patients are stated not to have been cured, whereas in the diary of the clinique, on the contrary, the success is attributed to the homœopathic system, and all the patients are represented as having been cured of their maladies. That this is the true state of the case is clearly shewn by the attestations affixed to the history of each case.’ It will be remembered that, by articles 5th and 9th, the allopathic commissioners, or their deputies, as well as the homœopathic practitioners, had to attest by their signatures both the diagnosis of the disease and the result of the treatment. No patient could be dismissed as cured without the consent of the allopaths. The State paper goes on to say, ‘The report of the commissioners is destitute of foundation, because they have not followed and watched the course of the diseases, as is evident from the absence of their signatures, nor have they taken care that their deputies should attend regularly. Hence, their opinion is not founded on certain and positive documents.’”

So much for one of Dr. Simpson's false statements.

Now, as all the conflicting opinions of medical authorities and discrepancies of the old school satisfactorily establish the deplorable uncertainty of the authorised practice of medicine, every honest and impartial man will, therefore, admit the necessity of a reform in therapeutics ; and as bleeding, leeching, blistering, purging, stimulants, narcotics, mercury, and various metallic preparations, are engines of destruction in the hands of the many petty practitioners of the old school, they must, therefore, be banished from therapeutics, and thus end the age of medical terror. It further becomes the object of a scientific philanthropist to examine what homœopathy is, and what its claims are to the great desideratum of humanity, *medical reform*.



HOMŒOPATHY.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DISEASE.

The source of error in all the various medical systems promulgated to mankind ever since the days of Gallen is, that the most important object of medical science has been altogether the most disregarded ; *i. e.*, disease, its nature and tendencies. The following aphorisms have been suggested by the study and practice of homœopathy for the last six years, and although opposed to the admitted opinions of the old school, still they wholly coincide with that of several eminent practitioners of the same school, who truly deserve the name of medical philosophers.

I.

Although the arcana of principles, causes, effects, and consequences, is an obscure labyrinth of nature, in which the philosopher cannot penetrate deeply, the following facts are easily demonstrated by the evidence which knowledge brings forth.

II.

All organic bodies are subjected to physiological laws, the transgression of which tends to derange the human machinery.

III.

The principle of life being of an immaterial nature, admits of no definition in the language of men ; in reference to it, synonymous expressions are used to convey the most adequate idea possible, *i. e.*, nature, vitality, vital force, *vis medicatrix naturæ*, occult agent, healing power, &c. We adopt the first word.

IV.

The primary *evils* inimical to life are, ignorance, vice, intemperance, excess, transgression of hygiëne, violation of organic laws, miasma, morbid principles, hereditary predispositions, and accident.

V.

From every primary evil originates sufferings, disease, disorganisation of tissue, and ultimately unnatural death.

VI.

Disease is a discord of the most wonderfully complicated piece of machinery of the creation known to man ; it is not, *sui generis*, an evil, but the remedy of nature to restore the deranged equilibrium ; in a plainer language, evils are the injurious actions exercised upon life, and disease the reaction ; or, again, disease constitutes the efforts of nature. If nature triumphs, the subject recovers ; if

in her attempts disorganisation reaches a certain extent, life returns to her original abode; for she is not the result of the perfect human apparatus (*mens agitat molem*.—*Virgil*).

VII.

Nature, exercising an occult power to resist injury, certain evils may be gradually put up with to an extent which varies according to the constitution, age, and circumstances of the individual.

VIII.

If disease be the natural reaction against evil, through the healing power (nature), the purpose of the healing art is to come in to help nature, and facilitate her triumphs.

As these principles are entertained by eminent men in science, we cannot refrain from quoting a few of their sentiments on the subject.

“The art of healing, it is very generally admitted, is one of those branches of medical knowledge in which there exists the greatest amount of errors, defects, and prejudices; and where experience is alike most difficult and deceptive. The mistakes that are daily made are often far greater than we are willing to admit. And then, how little do we know of the extent of nature’s own curative resources, and how much she will often effect, unaided by, or perhaps even in spite of, the interference of art. In the practice of our profession, it should ever be borne in mind that we have to do, not only with the existing disease, but also with the conservative and reparatory efforts of nature, which, by itself, is often sufficient to produce a cure. Hence those reputations of medicine and modes of treatment, which so rapidly start up and are as quickly forgotten; and hence those false gods of Therapeutics, that to-day are adored, and to-morrow are despised.”—*Bulletin de Therapeutique*.

“Certain writers (amongst whom is Gideon Harvey, physician to William III.) have advocated systematic deception and chicane in the practice of medicine. Harvey’s book was a refined satire on the therapeutics of his day. He knew what *all* men of ordinary penetration now know, that the conflicting theories and modes of treatment adopted in the profession have nearly similar results; that nature cures: and that the triumphant pæans of the pretender are raised for a victory not his own.”—*British and Foreign Medical Review*.

“What is to be done? Shall we give up the attempt [to achieve a reformation in medicine] in despair? Surely not. That course would be equally cowardly and impolitic. Impolitic, because the intelligent public is treading fast upon our heels. People already begin to say, ‘When we send for a doctor, he can only tell us what we know already;’ or they silyly hint to you, how *they* would attain to successful practice—‘I would always let nature cure the disease.’”—*Dr. Laycock, British and Foreign Medical Review*.

“Is it not presumable that they [diseases in general] have a

certain nature, and course, and termination, which it would be well for us to promote? * * * *

“The one great principle, then, to which a comprehensive review of homœopathy, ‘allopathy,’ hydropathy, and all other systems of medicine seems irresistibly to lead is, that in all cases and on all occasions, *nature is truly the agent in the cure of disease; and that, as she acts in accordance with fixed and invariable laws, the aim of the physician ought always to be to facilitate her efforts, by acting in harmony with, and not in opposition to those laws.* Disease, as already remarked, is a mode of action of a living organism, and not an entity apart from it. In accordance with this view, experience shows that when we favor the return to a normal action by simply natural means, recovery will ensue in most cases, without the use of drugs at all. So far from being always necessary to a cure, drugs are required only where the power of nature to resume her normal action proves inadequate, or is impeded by a removable obstruction. Even then it is still nature acting in accordance with her own laws that brings about the cure. She may be *aided*, but *she ought never to be thwarted*; and medicine will advance towards the certainty of other sciences only in proportion as we become saturated with this guiding principle.”—*Dr. Andrew Combe.*

“There can be no treatment of fever by physic but in studying the *juvantia* and the *lædantia* of the case—cultivating the first, eschewing the last, and never forgetting that there is a mighty power always operating in your favor—the *vis medicatrix naturæ*. Do not thwart her beyond the mark, and she will get you through difficulties, with which, without her aid, you could not cope; but the physician who believes that he possesses beyond these, medicines of specific power in fever, really should have his own license suspended, and himself be put under cure until the monomania subsides.”—*W. Fergusson.*

IX.

Help to nature may be afforded to her in several ways, but always in accordance with the organic laws, otherwise it is opposing nature. The help to nature consists first, in removing the evil if still present and known; second, in opposing or annihilating the evil (cause of disease, if present, though immaterial to our senses, and lurking in the system) and, third, in increasing nature’s natural efforts to overcome the action produced upon the human organism by evil; or, in plainer language, to secure her triumph. Such is the noble mission of the practice of medicine.

X.

Unfortunately the three different ways above pointed out to help nature do not always afford prompt relief to the sufferer nor immediate credit to the practitioner, who sacrifices the present for the future; therefore, the improvement of medical science depends upon the moral improvement of the patient. The people have to be made morally healthy before they become bodily so; hence the

double difficulty of homœopathy to teach people the philosophy of health and cure their disease. An appeal to reason becomes indispensable to secure perseverance when requisite.

XI.

In regard to the first mode of helping nature by removing the cause of disease, the theory is so simple that it requires no demonstration ; but as regards the second principle, *i. e.*, of opposing or annihilating evil, if immaterial and lurking in the system, it is only within the domain of therapeutics to solve the question. The laws of morbid derangement repose on a primitive germ ; annihilate this germ, and pathological modification dies away. The third principle, *i. e.*, of helping nature by increasing her forces, consists simply in using with discrimination the natural medium that maintains life, such as food, beverage, exercise, occupation, water, dress, atmosphere, electricity, &c. ; this not being a matter of dispute, we shall not enter into its mode of application, although it is an object of indispensable consideration in the practice of homœopathy.

Now that every clear-minded man is capable of comprehending the philosophy of disease, without being licensed to do so by a college of medicine, the folly of an allopathic treatment opposed to nature's own efforts becomes also obvious, *i. e.*, that the relief and comfort afforded to the sufferer through depletion, salivation, purgatives, &c., is lamentably delusive, because such processes diminish the reactive forces of nature, and not the injury complained of. But this treatment has generally the following advantages over homœopathy :—First, that by a prompt and immediate relief the patient is gratified, and confidently abandons himself to his doctor. Second, that a treatment which is, *sui generis*, a violation of the physiological laws, is a source of necessity for further advice and physics. As the natural course of causes and effects would lead us to the very grave, we are obliged to stop short for the purpose of investigating the fundamental principles of homœopathy.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.

I.

Relatively to the wants of the human fabric, all the elements of the creation are either nutritious or poisonous. The nutritious elements are the appropriate materials indispensable to life, for the maintenance of healthy tissues ; while the poisons differ from the former in their peculiar properties, to alter these necessary materials, so that when absorbed in the system, they produce morbid or unhealthy tissues.

II.

The impression produced by poisons when introduced in the human economy varies infinitely, but always according to some fixed laws of nature.

III.

Such a small dose of poison which is ineffectual to produce death, and manifests nevertheless a derangement in the functions or structure of the system, is said to possess *medicinal properties*, and, instead of it being called poisonous, it is called a drug—a remedy, &c.

IV.

Every drug produces *two opposite effects*, a primitive and a secondary effect. The primitive action of a remedy is the impression generally agreeable and momentarily remedial, such as is administered by the old school ; the secondary, which is the reverse, is the reaction of nature to restore the harmony of functions, momentarily deranged by its artificial and unnatural influence.*

V.

The knowledge of homœopathy is based upon—First, the accurate knowledge of a given disease. Second, on the knowledge of the medicinal properties of poisonous agents in nature, either simple or combined. And, lastly, on the relationship or similitude between disease and the properties of drugs.

VI.

But as these properties of drugs are hidden to every scientific test, we have but one mode of ascertaining and establishing these properties ; and this mode consists in determining their action upon the healthy subject. Thus, no science would demonstrate that some poisons of snakes are inimical to life, if it were not known by facts ; and so with every drug.

VII.

Homœopathy, leaving the domain of theories and entering that of facts, interrogates nature ; the answer is on the impressions manifested after the introduction of drugs into the alimentary canal of a healthy individual, and continued until vital derangement is manifest.

VIII.

These derangements are accurately collected, and form the new science called pathogenesis, or homœopathic materia medica ; and it is not susceptible of fluctuation with the opinions of men and learned bodies, but remains susceptible of progression through more accurate experiments upon healthy individuals and clinical observations.

IX.

The new science of pathogenesis is actually composed of about 260 remedies, but 60 alone are in daily use, because they were better experimented upon, and are better known.

* For instance, a purgative produces an artificial function, but on the days following, the obstruction and inertia of the bowels are worse.

X.

The importance of such science will become obvious, and it will be acknowledged to be the sanctuary of sound therapeutics when it is demonstrated that there is *a law of cure* which enables the physician to proceed in the treatment of disease from the knowledge of facts, and to abandon the path of conjectures followed by the old school.

THE LAW OF CURE.

I.

All positive sciences which have gradually improved, such as mathematics, natural philosophy, astronomy, navigation, hydrostatics, mechanics, and chemistry, are susceptible of infinite progression, *because* they possess the prerogative of established laws.

II.

The practice of medicine, which, in its early history, was confined to priests, and was merely superstitious, became gradually empirical, and ultimately fell into the vague domain of Rationalism, where it still remains on the level of a trade, most profitable to a kind of partner in the profession, the druggist.

III.

Rationalism, being founded upon hypothesis, sophistry, and contradiction, has no established laws, and, therefore, unlike positive sciences, it is deprived of the prerogative of extensive progression, which would so fortunately enable practical medicine to keep pace with other progressive sciences.

IV.

Homœopathy is the scientific endeavour to establish a law in therapeutics, which law has been revealed by the invariable result of experiments, and is confirmed by new facts which are taking place every day. It has no connection with any favorite mode of treatment ever promulgated, and is independent of human authority.

V.

As similar or different causes have never been known to produce the same effects, and that a disease is the result of a cause either known or unknown, visible or occult, any cause which can produce a similar form of disease, will also check this disorder, if cautiously and properly applied ; in other words, **LIKE CURES LIKE**.

For instance :

1. If some substance inimical to the process of digestion finds its way into the stomach, nausea and vomiting follow. As a remedy, you have to choose the one which produces nausea and vomiting, such as hot water, emetic, ipecacuanha, which are known to produce the same. The remedy being *properly* administered, vomiting is induced, and experience has taught mankind that a cure is the result.

2. In the case of ague, take that which produces the symptoms characteristic of the case. Select either arsenic, bark, quinine, capsicum, or any other medicinal substance which homœopathic science found out by experiments; take only such a dose in solution with water as will not create new morbid symptoms (a dose that will not hurt a fly, to please the detractors of medical reform), and then judge for yourself. When the cure is accomplished, reverse the experiment; take either hot water, emetic, or ipecacuanha, nausea and vomiting will follow; take a properly increased dose of the remedy which has cured you of the ague, and similar symptoms will be induced, whether you believe it or not.

The above facts explain that the contradiction of medical authorities about consumption (see quotation XXVII., page 24), were all founded upon observation.

A flash of lightning, or a sudden mental emotion, has often produced palsy; the same accidents have acted as an efficacious remedy in many instances. Persons poisoned by strychnine die in convulsions; many practitioners of the old school have cured convulsions with strychnine. Life is the primary cause of heat in the organic body; every organic body, while alive, can support a degree of heat which would burn it thoroughly if dead.

Among the various nervous derangements, opium produces spasms, convulsions of an epileptic form, lethargy, and coma. The same remedy has oftentimes cured lethargy; and the late Sir Charles Hotham, who was "cured" of the dysentery by mixtures having opium for their basis, died a few days after of epilepsy, to which he had never been subject in his life.* The same law could demonstrate whether the lamentable death of Lady Barkly was the result of an accident or of malpractice, for it is not ordered by Providence that we are to enjoy an ephemeral existence on earth. For the sake of the progress of homœopathy, we would wish that the dead could be interrogated upon the subject of the cause of their premature departure from this life. We confidently believe that if the late Sir Charles Hotham had trusted to homœopathy, as his Excellency the Governor-General of New South Wales has for several years, he would still be alive.

The reason why the English, more than any other people suffer from bilious and liver complaints, premature decayed teeth, and debility, is explained by their frequent use of antibilious and blue pills, as well as quinine.† In short mercury, sulphur, iodine, nux vomica,

* See in the number of the *Age* newspaper, subsequent to the funeral of Sir Charles Hotham (1855), a communication headed "THE CHOLERAIC DIARRHŒA."

† In a very valuable paper by Dr. Mackenna, on the mortality of children, contained in the last number of the *Australian Medical Journal*, we find the following illustration of the law of cure:—"The 'blue pill' at night and the 'black draught' in the morning, to cure the BILE, are as flourishing parts of our free institutions as they were thirty years ago. Indeed of the many eminent peculiarities by which Providence has distinguished the British nation, the most remarkable is that she alone on earth is permitted to be BILIOUS." The paper referred to is certainly indicative of progress in the profession, and reflects some credit upon its author, and the

opium, bark, etc., have revealed some of their medicinal properties to the old school through empiricism. The homœopaths in trying the same remedies upon the healthy, have received the explanation of their healing properties. But what is empiricism but the conjectural experience of a drug upon patients? How many thousand are to be victims of experiments in the old school before its efficacy becomes established? Homœopathic experiments on the contrary determine the efficacy of a remedy before the practitioner meets the case to which it is appropriate. In the old school numerous trials precede valuable observations, while in the new one observations previously made determine the remedy to be administered.

Although a fact need not be commented upon to be admitted, it is probable that the mode of action is as follows: the symptoms of a disease being the efforts of nature to get rid of the cause of it, a remedy appropriate to the case, and acting in the same direction, will aid nature and thus abridge the duration of the disorder; and it also happens that a medicinal disease resembling the natural one will be produced by an homœopathic remedy, and as two different causes productive of similar results cannot possibly exist at the same time in the human body, the morbid symptoms give place to the medicinal ones, and nature overcomes easily the action of the latter if discontinued; and the same for all diseases treated by medicinal substances. But this explanation does not constitute any part of the doctrine properly called HOMŒOPATHY, they are hypothesis, and homœopathy disclaims hypothesis—the process of healing is yet a secret of nature.

There are several degrees of efficacy in a remedy. If partially homœopathic to the case, the remedy is only beneficial, if homœopathic to most of the symptoms, it is effectual, and if to the whole it is most efficacious or specific.

In many common cases, the selection of a homœopathic remedy is very simple and easy, but in other cases it is attended with many difficulties. A very scrupulous investigation of the complicated ailments is indispensable on one hand, and the discovery of an appropriate remedy a more arduous task, one demanding deep study. Homœopathy has this character of certainty over the old school, that several homœopathic practitioners being called upon to prescribe for a given case, must and will inevitably agree as to the selection of the remedy indicated; the most experienced, talented, and skilful, will point out the best remedy and the others will yield to his suggestions, the same as a mariner will acknowledge his error in the reckoning of his latitude and longitude, whenever he finds superior instruments. The practice of Homœopathy however, is not alto-

journal. As a medical new chum in this colony, Mr. Bowman will soon discover that his scientific notions are behind the age. After honestly stating that "*it is his humble opinion that the authorised system of medication in children up to twelve or eighteen months is in some cases perfectly monstrous*," Dr. Mackenna almost dared to assert "*that physicians know absolutely nothing of the action of drugs, and are most uncertain of their result*." With a little more courage he would have told the truth and expressed his candid opinion.—(Note by the Author.)

gether a course of invariable success, for the following difficulties constantly present themselves :—

1. Inevitable death to which we are all subject by the laws of nature will always be an argument effectual in retarding the progress of homœopathy.

2. Many patients who are labouring under chronic complicated disorders, produced by the presence of noxious remedies in the system, are under the impression that they must be relieved immediately, and soon cured ; as they meet sometimes with disappointment, they then exercise their vengeance by calling it a “humbug.”

3. Some other patients describe their case as very slight, expecting by such disguise to be sooner cured, and thus give an incomplete description of their disorder, which misleads a skilful practitioner.

4. But the worst is, that in some forms of very acute cases, the symptoms are not always promptly arrested. Distrust follows ; medicine is said to have been a powerful poison ; the old-school practitioner is called upon, and soon blood-letting, purgatives, and narcotics, repulse the salutary efforts of nature, and paralyse her reactive forces. Odium is thrown upon the homœopath, praise upon the allopath, until prostration, chronic disorders, or an untimely end, terminates the contest.

5. It is also evident that a homœopathic remedy, however appropriate and properly prepared, will fail in all cases where there is no vital force susceptible of being put in activity. For medicines always cure indirectly through the power of nature, which alone restores to health ; hence, when homœopathic medicines fail, allopathic remedies may give momentary relief, but they never will cure patients given up by the homœopaths, while the contrary has been often the case, to the great shame, be it said of the old school practitioner. “*Indè lachrymæ !*”

All the charges alleged against homœopathy in general and practitioners in particular, have been originated through some of these circumstances only, these unjust charges degenerate promptly into falsehood, apparently discreditable to this cause, but in fact to its bitter enemies that misrepresent the truth ; the consequences of such calumnies are most prejudicial to all individuals taking such for granted, in forming an opinion without learning both sides of the question, and thereby retard its progress. But upon the whole in no place in the world is homœopathy declining.

HOMŒOPATHIC DOSES.

“ Truth is in a well ; few are deep-sighted enough to find it out.”

“ A GROWN-UP MAN SERIOUSLY ASSERTS THAT HE CAN CURE THIS OR THAT DISEASE BY A BILLIONTH OR DECILLIONTH OF THIS OR THAT PROBABLY INERT DRUG,” &c., &c., &c. We acknowledge willingly that Dr. Bowman is honest in his objections, and that to many the same quoted assertion must, *à priori*, appear absurd. But

we wish to reason upon the subject for the sake of demonstrating that absurdity in this case is as delusive as a probable truth may be fallacious.

Although the homœopathic law of cure is independent from the mode of administering the appropriate remedy, it is, nevertheless, obvious that if a dose of a remedy is more injurious than the cause of disease, a new medicinal disorder will be induced, and, in consequence, the patient will fall from bad into worse. How then to determine the proper magnitude of a dose which will not create new disorders; and at the same time will exhibit its whole efficacy? Here, again, men have to keep silent, and interrogate nature. Instead of denying, they have to observe; instead of talking and discussing, they merely have to open their eyes, for we gain our knowledge from nature through our senses only.

Dr. Routh, already referred to as a champion of the old school says, "IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE THAT SMALL DOSES, AND SPECIALLY, IN LARGE DILUTIONS (as the homœopaths administer them), WILL OFTENTIMES ACT VERY SATISFACTORILY, FOR I HAVE SEEN THIS REPEATEDLY." Now, Dr. Routh believes in the power of small doses, BECAUSE HE HAS SEEN THEM REPEATEDLY ACT SATISFACTORILY. Mr. Bowman not having seen the fact is certainly justified in disbelieving it; but is he justified, also, in denying and refusing to put the "ABSURDITY" to practical test?

Until our readers see positive and repeated facts, we wish them to follow our argument in favor of the possibility of medicinal action being produced by the absorption in the system of a given remedy, administered in such imponderable doses, that often no human test can determine the size and number of its atoms.

Are we acquainted with any facts which make it probable that infinitesimal atoms act upon an organic body, and thus produce material and functional derangement, conducive ultimately to complete disorganization? What are cholera, miasma, fever, contagion, hydrophobia, light, heat, electricity, etc., etc.? Will Mr. Bowman tell the sizes of the atoms of the morbid principle of cholera, the weight of those of contagious diseases, the quantity of venomous poison of snakes which produce almost instantaneous death? Will he detect the vitality still inherent in a grain, however small, found in the stomach of an Egyptian mummy? In fact, how does he know better than any body else what is large and what is small? Does he understand what is the maximum or minimum of creative power? Can he imagine nothingness, or anything useless in creation? What is the weight, breadth, and length of the atoms of musk which are emitted by one single grain, kept in the same place for several years, and still weighing the same at the end of that period?

As all the disciples of materialism, Mr. Bowman is in the most deplorable ignorance of all that is not to be found in his books, or that which he has not picked up in the dissecting room. The old school practitioner is ignorant that there is an occult agent in the organic body called vitality, and that this principle is susceptible of

being strongly acted upon by various infinite causes, which will neither be perceptible to any of our senses, nor to any scientific test.

Mr. Bowman, when speaking of inert drugs, has, indeed, a very inadequate idea of the works of creation. He quotes, as an instance of inert substances, sulphur. Very well; add to it the equally "*inert*" substances, charcoal and saltpetre, and a single spark of fire will demonstrate that a combination of "*inert*" substances may produce very powerful results. In fact, we maintain, there exists nothing in nature which does not possess some visible or occult chemical property, if brought into certain combinations; the inertia of a substance is a mere fiction, the same as the existence of nothing. The oxygen and hydrogen gases which man inhales in large quantities, when mixed together, and put in contact with an electric spark, will produce an explosion like gunpowder. What a tremendous result from a trifling cause!

It can be easily demonstrated by facts that the billionth part of a grain of sulphur, or other appropriate drug, when its numberless atoms are rendered susceptible of penetrating every part of the human body, will as satisfactorily counteract the imponderable cause of a disorder, as twenty grains of ipecacuanha will remove the material cause of an indigestion. We are ready to make the experiment upon patients who are victims of a well-known virus, and we most solemnly declare that we have never failed (during a practice of several years) to cure the same in a few days by the employment of mercury in infinitesimal doses. Now the atoms of this remedy were probably in excess of magnitude when compared to the atoms of the morbid virus. If the principle germ or cause of a disease be of an imponderable nature, why should not be the remedy? What should be the quantity of a drop of water required to annihilate the primary spark of fire so as to prevent the destruction of a whole city by fire?

It is not true that homœopathists have ever alleged that the infinitesimal doses they administer possess "tremendous power;" this is a gratuitous assertion of Mr. Bowman. The efficacy of a billionth part of a drop of water in annihilating a spark of fire and then prevent most tremendous consequences, does not involve the necessity of being capable of inundating a whole city. The small dose of copper or white helleborus requisite to check the material ravages of the imponderable morbid principles of *cholera*, when introduced into the stomach of a healthy man, will then exhibit a power as tremendous as a spark of fire falling in the Yarra-Yarra. But put the right thing in the right place, and then judge from the evidence of facts. The difference between the action of a morbid principle inimical to life, when in the human organism, and the destructive spark in contact with combustible substances, lies on its capability of spreading quickly or slowly.

It is, nevertheless, true, that the homœopaths maintain that the properties inherent in every drug are wonderfully developed by a mechanical preparation which disturb the cohesion of its atoms. These facts again require the evidence of experiments. For in-

stance, five grains of corrosive sublimate, when in the stomach of a rabbit, will generally produce death in twenty-four hours, half this quantity in solution with water will produce the same result in a much shorter time. It is also asserted and proved, that when an organ or some organs in the human body are the seat of natural efforts to restore its or their proper equilibrium, a similar cause to that of its morbid action will so strongly act upon it (or them) that great caution will be required in administering the appropriate or homœopathic remedy. For instance, patients suffering from ophthalmia will not stand the glare of light, as they would otherwise do. People suffering from asthma will experience a fresh attack by inhaling an extra quantity of carbon which would not hurt a fly. The heat of a poultice, by being homœopathic, to the effects of inflammation, produces relief; but the heat is much more sensible when applied upon the inflamed tissue than if applied upon healthy tissue. The least touch upon a highly inflamed and lacerated wound produces intense pain, whilst the same touch would not be sufficient "*to hurt a fly.*"

The necessity of employing infinitesimal doses is dictated by experience, because a remedy, the action of which is sympathising with that of nature, does not require to be employed in the same quantity as if its action was antipathetic to the efforts of nature.

An old school practitioner denies the curative power of a drug administered in infinitesimal doses, he is supported by the whole faculty of medicine, and approved by the great majority of men; whilst nature tells us by innumerable facts, that such doses are sufficient to give her salutary help,—which shall we believe, nature or prejudices?

The only safe escape for the orthodox professional gentlemen is to continue to maintain as they do, that in some cases diseases may be better cured without any remedy at all, and that the homœopathic success after their failure are attributable only to the total absence of injurious treatment. By saying so they only expect to throw discredit individually upon some compeers, and save the endangered craft. But they have yet to prove their assertion, and if they succeed in doing so, still discredit and shame will remain upon those who *depend* wholly upon drugs, energetic against the efforts of nature, but powerless against the cause of disease.

In reference to this futile mode of scientific controversy, I read in an address of the retiring President of the Medical Society of Victoria in the last number of the *Australian Medical Journal* the following libel against homœopathy:—"And may we not safely acknowledge that we have learned a lesson in this respect from the quackeries of our day? Have we not seen that the homœopath has been able to cure cases which had resisted the influence of drugs, BY SIMPLY LETTING THEM ALONE AND ATTENDING TO REGIMEN. Thus, we may learn much from those systems which have been so HURTFUL TO HUMANITY and to true medicine, when carried to an extreme, and vaunted as PANACEA."

As a proof that homœopathy is not one of those systems hurtful to humanity, we invoke the testimony of all the distinguished patients who have been treated homœopathically for several years, to confirm the following facts. Ever since their conversion the patients who have been treated and cured by homœopathy continue to trust to it in the most acute cases, and become its warm advocates. For fear of falling again into the hands of an old school practitioner, they purchase a family case of homœopathic medicine with a practical book to meet the emergency of disease themselves, if no homœopathic adviser is to be found.

In concluding his address, the same medical gentleman attempts to cast a last stigma upon this great cause of humanity by calling it a "*panacea*." Everybody knows that this word conveys not only its intrinsic meaning, namely, a medicine that cures all diseases. but also a scientific presumption characteristic of quackery. Such being the case, we wish an impartial public to understand that it is treating homœopathy with vague and unmerited abuses, to compare it to a panacea. Homœopathy is a condemnation of such absurd presumption; for nothing is done according to routine and caprice by the homœopath. Instead of having a favorite remedy for all forms of diseases, he has a great many remedies for a single one. Ten cases of different dysenteries may be cured by ten different remedies, but he will not try various remedies one after the other, until he hits upon the right one, as is generally done by the old school practitioner. But on the contrary, all is done according to a natural law, and the right remedy must be found, if its medical properties are laid down in the homœopathic materia medica.

When homœopathy was beginning to make its way in Scotland, one of the leading Edinburgh reviews introduced the subject to its readers in the following impartial manner:—

"True or false, homœopathy is, at least, not to be confounded with empiricism. It has some of the outward signs, but it has none of the inward and essential characteristics of quackery. It is not a mystery concocted and retained for the sake of money-getting; but it is fairly and openly given to the world. It is not a resort and refuge for the ignorant, but requires extensive knowledge of the parts and functions of the human frame, of pathology, too, as well as of physiology, of botany and of chemistry, and the practical use of both. It is not an insidious delusion, converting the hopes of the valetudinarian into instruments of death; a chalice, sparkling on the brim, but fatal on the draught, seducing by the first feeling of transient amendment, in order to destroy by the slow and sure result of repeated application; on the contrary, homœopathy enforces abstinence and self-denial; it tampers not with the fine springs of life, and by the confession even of its enemies, if in some cases it should do no good, in scarcely any case can it do any harm."

Strange as homœopathy may appear to the present generation, the actual opposition to that great boon conferred upon mankind will

appear no less wonderful to a more enlightened generation than the credulity of our forefathers respecting the cause of diseases. Evil spirits were by them believed to be engaged in tormenting the poor afflicted portion of mankind, and priests took good care to maintain their monopoly of public confidence. All the painful and debilitating applications actually practised and robbing the human body of its rich elements of life, will be adduced as specimens of the ignorance of the nineteenth century, when a more enlightened generation acknowledges that the so-called rational system of medicine, as promulgated by the established medical schools, have been a gross violation of the organic laws. How inconsistent it will appear that while the same schools were successfully developing the useful sciences of anatomy, surgery, and physiology, they were at the same time exercising a dreadful calamity in advocating a system of therapeutics and practical medicine opposed to the laws of physiology, thereby producing disorders unknown to mankind from the various accidents of life.

The light of homœopathy can reach the intellect of every clear-minded inquirer ; it will open to him the ways of escaping the torments of physic, and of enjoying health, the greatest prerogative of human happiness. We can afford to allow the ignorant to sneer at the claims and pretensions of this medical reform, and the medical profession to continue its inquisitorial war against it, for to every right cause the future belongs, and that future is ours. The heart of the most humble conscientious homœopath is filled up with the inward happiness of being a benefactor to mankind, a treasure which he would not exchange for the riches and honors enjoyed by the detractors of this great human blessing. Life is short, eternity is long, and we believe that practical philanthropy will have its place in the scale of divine justice and make up for the religious errors unconsciously entertained, probably by all men.



AN APPEAL TO THE IMPARTIAL AND INTELLIGENT PUBLIC

Parliamentary Return of the Homœopathic Treatment of Cholera.

Return to an Address of the Honorable The House of Commons
dated 17th May, 1855 ;—for,

“COPIES of any Letters which have been addressed to the General Board of Health, complaining of the omission of any Notice of certain Returns in relation to the treatment of Cholera, which Returns were sent to the General Board of Health, in pursuance of a Circular dated September last, and issued by the Board ; and of any Correspondence which has passed between the President of the Board and the Medical Council ; together with Copies of the Returns which have been rejected by the Medical Council.”

London Homœopathic Hospital, Golden Square,
20th April, 1855.

SIR,—The Committee of Management of the London Homœopathic Hospital who were actively engaged in the reception of the poor suffering from the cholera epidemic of last year, have observed with much pain and surprise, that in the Report furnished by you to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, and recently presented to Parliament, on the results of the different methods of treatment in epidemic cholera, the Returns prepared and delivered to your Board in the month of November last by them, are not included in the analysis prepared under your sanction.

In the Report issued from the Board of Health it is stated that the whole of the Returns made to that Board have been carefully analysed ; but as this statement is completely at variance with the fact that the returns from this hospital were delivered at your office and yet remained unnoticed, the Committee of Management conceive that they have just cause of complaint that their labors in the cause of the indigent sick in that district of the metropolis which was the most severely affected by the epidemic, have been thus entirely ignored.

Again, in the execution of the duty assigned to those charged by yourself with the preparation of the above-mentioned Report, it could not be forgotten that the object contemplated by yourself and declared, was the commencement of a system by which national medical statistics could be procured, a system not intended to produce opinions, but facts and materials on which opinions and practical deductions might hereafter be based ; therefore the suppression of any duly authenticated Returns which afforded positive information to the public relating to the cholera was not to have been expected ; and the omission of which the Committee of Management complain, is one which they feel convinced you, as President of the

Board of Health, will admit requires explanation, inasmuch as it not only affects the conduct of those officers of your Board to whose care the returns were entrusted, but it is at the same time calculated to throw doubt on the value of that Council which, under other circumstances, could not but impart additional confidence to the recommendations emanating from the Board of Health.

The Committee of Management, in addressing this complaint to you solely on public grounds, cannot at the same time refrain from bringing under your notice the circumstances connected with their proceedings in the crisis adverted to.

It may not be irrelevant to state, for your information, that the London Homœopathic Hospital numbers amongst its office-bearers and supporters Members of both Houses of the Legislature, officers of the army and navy, clergymen of the Established Church, and other ministers of religion, lawyers and merchants, and many individuals distinguished for their attainments in the different branches of science, literature, and art, whilst its medical staff is composed of graduates of universities, and members of recognised licensing schools of surgery and medicine, as you will perceive by the following list of the staff of the hospital :—

Patroness.—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge.

Vice-Patron.—His Grace the Duke of Beaufort.

President.—Right Hon the Earl of Wilton.

Vice-Presidents.—His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin ; Right Hon. the Earl of Essex ; Right Hon. the Earl of Albemarle ; Right Hon. the Viscount Sydney ; the Viscount Maldon ; Lord Francis Gordon ; Captain Lord C. Paget, R.N., M.P. ; Captain Lord M. Paget, M.P. ; Colonel Lord G. Paget, M.P. ; Right Hon. the Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P. ; Right Hon. the Lord Gray ; Sir Charles Isham, Bart. ; Charles Powell Leslie, Esq., M.P. ; Colonel Wyndham ; F. Foster Quinn, Esq., M.D. ; Marmaduke B. Sampson, Esq.

Chairman.—Right Hon. the Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P.

Board of Management.—Nathaniel Barton, Esq. ; Captain Branford, R.N. ; John Broadhurst, Esq. ; Ralph Buchan, Esq. ; Captain William Caldwell ; J. B. Cramper, Esq. ; W. C. Dutton, Esq. ; Edward Esdaile, Esq. ; George Hallett, Esq. ; Philip Hughes, Esq. ; J. P. Knight, Esq., R.A. ; William Pritchard, Esq. ; R. T. Reep, Esq. ; H. C. Robinson, Esq. ; H. Rosher, Esq. ; Sir John Smith, Bart. ; Charles Snewin, Esq. ; J. W. Tottie, Esq. ; Thomas Uwins, Esq., R.A. ; William Watkins, Esq.

Trustees.—George Hallett, Esq. ; Philip Hughes, Esq. ; William Watkins, Esq. ; D. W. Witton, Esq.

Medical Council.—Frederick Foster Quinn, M.D., President of the British Homœopathic Society ; Edward Hamilton, M.D., Treasurer to the British Homœopathic Society ; T. R. Leadam, M.R.C.S., Hon. Secretary to the British Homœopathic Society ; S. T. Partridge, M.D. ; Hugh Cameron, M.R.C.S. ; Victor Massol, M.D. ; J. Ruther-

furd Russell, M.D. ; George Newman, M.R.C.S. ; George Hilbers, M.D. ; D. Wielobycki, M.D. ; F. W. Irvine, M.D. ; George Dunn, M.D. ; J. Ozanne, M. D. ; J. B. Metcalf, M.R.C.S. ; Joseph Kidd, M.D., M.R.C.S. ; W. Mayne, M.D. ; R. D. Hale, M.D. ; G. C. Holland, M.D. ; John Moore, M.R.C.S. ; Stephen Yeldham, M.R.C.S. ; Henry Reynolds, M.R.C.S. ; W. Watson, M.R.C.S. ; T. Mackern, M.R.C.S. ; W. Roche, M.D. ; J. G. Young, M.R.C.S. ; R. T. Massy, M.D. ; J. L. Vardy, L.A.C. ; Professor Macdonald, M.D. ; S. Wielobycki, M.D. ; J. Hutton Hill, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. ; A. C. Edwards, M.R.C.S. ; G. Wyld, M.D. ; R. Baike, M.D., M.R.C.S. ; D. Smith, M.R.C.S. ; W. Morgan, M.R.C.S.

Medical Officers.—Dr. Quinn, Consulting Physician ; Dr. Hamilton ; Dr. Partridge, Physician Accoucheur ; Dr. J. Rutherford Russell ; Dr. Wielobycki ; Dr. Hill ; Dr. Wyld ; Dr. Baike, Assistant Physician ; Mr. Yeldham ; Mr. Leadam, Surgeon Accoucheur ; Mr. Mackern ; Mr. Cameron ; Mr. D. Smith ; Mr. Edwards ; Mr. Morgan, Assistant Surgeons.

During the five years of its existence, the London Homœopathic Hospital has received as in and out patients fully 14,000 of the poor, afflicted with nearly every variety of acute and chronic disease.

In the early part of last September, the Committee of Management of the London Homœopathic Hospital, from a desire to contribute, to the best of their ability, to the measures adopted by the parochial authorities of St. James's, Westminster, for the purpose of checking the ravages of the cholera in the Golden Square and neighbouring districts, gave directions for appropriating the wards of the hospital to the sole use of the poor attacked by the epidemic, the usual letters of recommendation being dispensed with. A visiting staff of medical officers was also organised for service amongst those who could not be received as in-patients, and supplies of medicines, preventative as well as remedial, were gratuitously dispensed at all hours of the day and night to the poor who applied.

To give as much publicity as was practicable to the proceedings of the Committee of Management, handbills containing directions to be followed for the prevention or arrest of the disorder in its earlier stages were extensively circulated, and notices were from time to time inserted in the daily journals, announcing that the hospital was ready to receive patients laboring under cholera.

The Committee of Management also forwarded an official intimation of their arrangements to the Board of Guardians of the parish, to whom application was likewise made for the use of any litter or means of conveyance the authorities might have provided in pursuance of the directions issued by yourself ; but the application for assistance to remove cases of cholera to or from the hospital was refused, on the ground that they had no means of complying with the request.

Although the medical inspector appointed by the Board of Health for the Golden Square district could not be ignorant that many of the poor of the neighbourhood were received and treated in this

hospital, the only medical institution in the district exclusively devoted to the reception of cholera patients, he never once visited the hospital, to examine into the nature of the cases received here, nor sought to enter the wards where their treatment was carried out. But the medical officers of the London Homœopathic Hospital, desirous that the severity and character of the cases received by them, as well as the treatment pursued, should be witnessed and recorded by a medical inspector appointed by the Board of Health, invited Dr. Macloughlin (who has always been strongly opposed to homœopathic treatment), the medical inspector of the districts of Stepney, Poplar, St. Andrew's, St. Giles' and St. George's Bloomsbury to inspect the wards; and to him the Committee of Management can refer for corroborative evidence in support of the value of the results obtained and witnessed by him in his visits to this hospital.

A copy of a letter addressed by Dr. Macloughlin to one of the officers of the medical staff of this hospital is, by permission, enclosed herewith, and your attention is particularly directed to that passage in which it is stated by him, "That there may therefore be no misapprehension about the cases I saw in your hospital, I will add, that all I saw were true cases of cholera, in the various stages of the disease, and that I saw several cases which did well under your treatment, which I have no hesitation in saying would have sunk under any other."

The care of the Committee of Management was not confined to the merely medical treatment of the poor who sought relief in the hospital. Through the liberality of some of the supporters of the institution, and of others anxious to assist in this charitable work, a fund was raised and placed at the disposal of the visiting staff, who humanely engaged lodgings at Hampstead and other places, to which several of the poor were removed during the period of their convalescence, and by this means, as well as by gifts of money and clothing distributed to those who were reduced to extreme poverty by their own illness, or death by cholera of their parents, the parish was relieved of any charge on their account.

The operations of this hospital, directed exclusively to cholera patients, were continued during the whole period of the epidemic in the district, and the results obtained in 61 cases of pure cholera, and in 331 cases of choleraic and simple diarrhœa, were recorded in the forms issued by the General Board of Health, and, as already stated, delivered by an officer of the institution at your office in the month of November following.

The utmost care was taken in adding the names, occupations, and addresses of the cases, the symptoms observed at the different stages of the attacks, and the remedies employed in accordance with the prominent symptoms detailed, as well as the names and degrees of the respective medical officers of the institution responsible for the accuracy of the returns.

The following is a summary of the returns thus furnished :—

CASES OF CHOLERA TREATED.	Admitted.	Collapse	Consecutive Fever.	Recovery.	Death.	Discontinued.
As In-patients... ..	33	23	5	25	7	1
By the Visiting Staff	18	13	3	13	3	2
Amongst the Out-patients ...	10	—	—	10	—	—
TOTAL	61	36	8	48	10	3

CASES OF DIARRHŒA TREATED.	No. of Cases.	Passed into Cholera.	Discontinued.	Recovery.	Death.	Unknown.
As In-patients (Choleraic) ...	5	—	—	5	—	—
By the Visiting Staff (Choleraic)	5	—	—	5	—	—
As Out-patients { Choleraic	116	4	2	107	1	2
	205	1	—	201	—	3
TOTAL	331	5	2	318	1	5

From the circumstance that of these 61 cases of clearly ascertained cholera, including the three cases removed from the hospital by the friends of the patients before any result could be obtained, the cases of collapse equal 59 per cent., it will be observed that a very large proportion of the cases recorded presented features of the most severe and serious character.

And in further proof of the violence of the cases treated, it may be mentioned that one of the ten whose deaths are recorded expired whilst being removed from the conveyance in which he was brought to the hospital, and before any treatment could be commenced ; whilst, in another case, the treatment was begun by the visiting staff of this hospital after the parish surgeons had pronounced recovery to be hopeless.

It forms no part of the immediate object of this letter to institute a comparison between the results obtained at this hospital and those recorded in your report, but as the returns of this hospital prove that in an institution ill adapted from its want of space and the arrangements of its wards for the purposes of a cholera hospital the deaths *do not exceed* 16·4 per cent. in an epidemic in which, as the report issued by you shows, the deaths in severe cases under the *most successful* treatment pursued in other metropolitan hospitals, were at the rate of 36·2 per cent., the Committee of Management must lament that the public, for whose benefit the Board of Health was instituted, is left, by the report of that Board, in total ignorance of the results obtained by the treatment pursued in the London Homœopathic Hospital, and of the medicinal means by which these results were obtained ; and they deem it their duty respectfully to

request an investigation into the truth of the above statement, and into the cause of the suppression of their returns in the report made by the Board over which you preside.

By order of the Committee of Management of the London Homœopathic Hospital, Golden Square. I have, &c.

(Signed) RALPH BUCHAN,

The Right Hon. Sir Benjamin Hall, Hon. Sec.
Bart., M.P., &c., President of the
General Board of Health.

Extract from a letter dated 22nd February, 1855, from Dr. Mac-loughlin, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Board of Health, to Hugh Cameron, Esq., M.R.C.S., and one of the Surgeons to the London Homœopathic Hospital.

You are right. I did tell you that I would report to the General Board of Health the opinion I had formed of the manner the poor cholera patients were cared for in your hospital, and the success of your treatment ; but finding that I could not enter into details relative to your hospital without entering also into details relative to the Allopathic Hospitals, which would lead me into considerations foreign to the sanitary question before me, I therefore merely give the result arrived at in yours, along with the result arrived at in other establishments, reserving to myself the liberty to say more in detail what is the impression on my mind as to your treatment of cholera cases, when I publish a monograph on cholera.

You are aware that I went to your hospital prepossessed against the homœopathic system ; that you had in me, in your camp, an enemy rather than a friend, and that I must therefore have seen some cogent reason there, the first day I went, to come away so favorably disposed as to advise a friend to send a subscription to your charitable fund, and I need not tell you that I have taken some pains to make myself acquainted with the rise, progress, and medical treatment of cholera, and that I claim for myself some right to be able to recognise the disease, and to know something of what the medical treatment ought to be ; and,

That there may therefore be no misapprehension about the cases I saw in your hospital, I will add, that all I saw were true cases of cholera, in the various stages of the disease ; and that I saw several cases which did well under your treatment, which I have no hesitation in saying would have sunk under any other.

In conclusion, I must repeat to you, what I have already told you, and what I have already told every one with whom I have conversed, that although an allopath by principle, education, and practice, yet was it the will of Providence to afflict me with cholera, and to deprive me of the power of prescribing for myself, I would rather be in the hands of a homœopathic than an allopathic adviser.

I cannot suppose that anything I have said above can be of value to the homœopathic system, but such as it is, you are at full liberty to make what use you please of this letter.

The General Board of Health, Whitehall,
26, April, 1855.

Sir,

I am directed by the President of the General Board of Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant.

I am to forward copies of the correspondence which has passed between this office and the Committee of the Medical Council, to whom the preparation of the report on the treatment of cholera has been entrusted.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) J. F. Campbell,
Assistant Secretary.

C. Buchan, Esq.,
Homœopathic Hospital.

Enclosure, No. 1.

The General Board of Health, Whitehall,
11 [qu. 21?] April 1855.

Sir,

I am directed by the President of the General Board of Health to inform you that inquiries have been made with regard to the course pursued by the Treatment Committee of the Medical Council, in dealing with the cholera returns sent in by homœopathic practitioners. It appears that the Medical Directory was followed in circulating the forms of return from this office, and that this directory does not distinguish homœopathic from other practitioners.

As the president finds on inquiry, that forms of return were sent to homœopathic practitioners, and as these forms appear in several cases to have been filled up and returned to this office, and as a return was also made from the Homœopathic Hospital, I am to inquire why no notice has been taken of these returns by the Treatment Committee, their report containing no reference to them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) J. F. Campbell,
Secretary.

John A. Paris, Esq., M.D.,
Chairman of the Treatment Committee of the
Medical Council, 27, Dover Street.

Enclosure, No. 2.

Sir,

Dover Street, 21st April 1855.

For the information of Sir Benjamin Hall, I beg to enclose a resolution unanimously passed by the Treatment Committee of the Medical Council of the General Board of Health, which I trust will be a satisfactory answer to the enquiry addressed to me regarding the reasons which induced the Committee to pass over without notice the homœopathic returns of their treatment of cholera.

"*Resolved*, That by introducing the returns of homœopathic practitioners, they would not only compromise the value and utility of their averages of cure, as deduced from the operation of known remedies, but they would give an unjustifiable sanction to an empirical practice alike opposed to the maintenance of truth, and to the progress of science."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) John Ayrton Paris,
President.

T. Taylor, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Health.

Enclosure, No. 3.

The General Board of Health, Whitehall,
24th April, 1855.

Sir,

I am directed by the General Board of Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and of the resolution of the Treatment Committee as to the returns of cholera cases treated in the Homœopathic Hospital.

I am to state that your letter will be laid before the President for his consideration.

I have, &c.,

J. A. Paris, Esq., M.D., &c.
Dover Street.

(Signed) J. F. Campbell,
Assistant Secretary.

From R. Buchan, Honorary Secretary, London Homœopathic Hospital,
11th May, 1855, to the Right Hon. Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart. M.P.

Sir,

The Committee of Management of this Hospital have instructed me to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Campbell's communication of the 26th ult., in reply to your letter of the 21st April, requesting an explanation of the omission in your Report of the Cholera Returns sent from this hospital in November last, in pursuance of your instructions, and which were prepared in the tabular forms furnished by your department.

The Committee of Management are fully sensible of the promptitude with which you have directed an inquiry to be made into the cause of the omission complained of. They deem it their duty, however, to protest against the injustice which has been done to a charitable institution over which they preside, and to express their surprise that the reason assigned for such omission is an abstract resolution of a body of gentlemen who, in violation of the objects set forth in your circular, have under the apparent sanction of your authority, arbitrarily and without any examination, suppressed the returns of this hospital; not because they have been proved to be untrue, but because they are at variance with the preconceived opinions of those to whom the preparation of the Report was entrusted.

The Committee of Management feel confident that you, the appointed guardian of the public health, will still give practical effect to the declarations contained in your circular, dated September 1854, and not permit the benefits to the public therein anticipated by you, from the collection and systematic record of the results of treatment of choleraic disease pursued by *all* qualified practitioners, to be neutralized by any body of medical gentlemen limiting the field of inquiry to those returns only which communicate results obtained by what are termed "known remedies."

The Committee therefore again solicit your consideration of the statements contained in their letter of the 20th ultimo, and are desirous of impressing upon you the importance to the public, for whose benefit your Board was formed, of including in your forthcoming Report on the Golden Square District the results embodied in the returns furnished by the officers of this hospital in November last.

By order of the Committee of Management of the London Homœopathic Hospital.

I have &c.,

(Signed) R. Buchan, Hon. Sec.

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